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'Berlin & Beyond'
Festival of films from the
German-speaking world.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 2 • 10 January 2002

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Controversy swirls over new Mission police captain

by Matthew S. Bajko
and Cynthia Laird



When word spread last week that San Francisco Police Captain Greg Corrales had been assigned to run Mission Station, and Captain Ron Roth had been reassigned to San Francisco International Airport, worried residents of the Castro and Mission flooded Supervisor Tom Ammiano with phone calls.

Corrales has a long and sometimes bitter history with well-known medical marijuana advocate Dennis Peron, dating back to the 1970s. Longtime San Francisco residents and advocates of medical marijuana remember Corrales as the cop who raided Peron's Market Street Cannabis Buyer's Club in August 1996 and conducted "sweeps" on Polk Street in the 1980s. While Corrales defends those prior actions and insists he will adhere to the city's current marijuana laws, his name alone raised immediate concern.

"He comes with a lot of baggage. A lot of people in the gay community remember him being part of different sweeps and other incidents," explained Ammiano, who requested Police Chief Fred Lau set up a meeting between him and the newly instated captain. "I am not jumping up and down with joy. But, I don't mind having an open mind about people."

While Corrales has not made headlines in recent years, he was front page news back in 1996 when he was head of the Police Department's narcotics unit and was interviewed by CBS' *48 Hours*. Corrales said Monday that his past dealings with medical marijuana were before voters approved Proposition 215 in November 1996. Corrales declined to comment directly on Peron, other than to say that "Dennis Peron was on national television advertising marijuana sales," a reference to the numerous TV interviews — local and national — that Peron has granted over the years.

Both Corrales and Police Commander Greg Suhr, a former Mission Station captain, denied that they were the officers who allegedly shot Peron during a 1977 arrest. Peron still carries fragments of the bullet in

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Suspected killer Christian Longo

FBI searches Castro for suspected killer

by Ed Walsh

A telephone tip resulted in a police and FBI search for Christian Longo in the Castro on Monday night, January 7, but the manhunt turned up no sign of the man suspected of killing his family in Oregon before heading to the Bay Area.

FBI spokesman Andy Black told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the Castro search was initiated as a result of someone phoning authorities after seeing a man in the area that resembled Longo. FBI agents canvassed the Castro but could find no sign of the fugitive. Black said agents also went door-to-door to Castro businesses with a photo of Longo but nothing panned out. Investigators don't know whether Longo was ever in the Castro or the sighting was of someone who looked like him.

Black said their investigation of Longo has turned up no indications that he is gay. Black added, however, that it is just as possible that Longo is hiding in the Castro as anywhere else in the city.

Black said the FBI has dealt with over a hundred sightings, and agents follow up on each one as a matter of routine.

Several people who resembled Longo were stopped and questioned by agents in the Castro and both uniformed and plainclothes officers went into several bars in the area looking for Longo, according to San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer Jane Warner.

Longo, 27, is accused of killing his wife and three children in late December. Their bodies were found

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Sticker shock Lesbian charges auto shop with rainbow flag desecration

by Katie Szymanski

It's a long held assumption that women are more likely than men to be mistreated by automobile mechanics. But a local woman said she believes that her being a lesbian recently contributed to more than usual mistreatment while she was having her car serviced.

Laine Wallace, a 13-year resident of San Francisco, reportedly dropped off her 1985 Honda Accord at Ted & Al's Service Center at 624 Stanyan Street in the Haight on December 11. It took three weeks of constant calling, she said, to finally get her car back, at which point she discovered that the mechanics had been using the vehicle for errands, racking up 188 miles on the odometer. To add insult to injury, the shop workers allegedly

used electrical tape to cover the car's rainbow sticker while they drove around town, apparently so as not to be perceived as gay.

Nate Freed, the manager of the shop, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Wallace asked him to hold onto the car as long as necessary to ensure a thorough job. Wallace agrees with that claim, and in fact says she is not disputing the work done or the more than \$2,000 in charges incurred.

"I gave them permission to keep the car only because I wanted it back in good condition," Wallace told the *B.A.R.* "After a while I started to feel like I was getting screwed, so I played nice. I even dropped by to bring them doughnuts."

To Freed, this behavior meant he was on the right track. So when Wallace showed up

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Ted and Al's Service Center, where Laine Wallace took her car for repair work.

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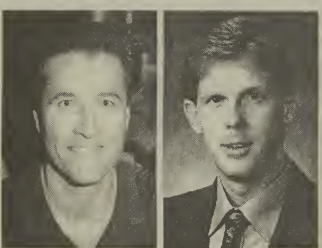


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Susan Leal sworn in for second term

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Treasurer Susan Leal was sworn in to her second term Monday, January 7 in the City Hall Rotunda before a crowd of family members, friends, and well-wishers. Administering the oath of office was U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Breyer.

Before administering the oath, Breyer said that Leal represents the best in politics, calling her honest, earnest, open, intelligent, and someone who has great integrity.

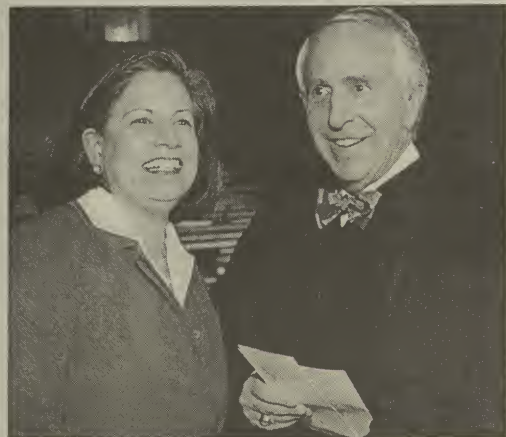
Leal easily won re-election last November with about 86 percent of the vote.

On Monday, she acknowledged several family members in attendance, including her partner, Susan Hirsch, her mother, her aunt, and Hirsch's mother.

She also praised her staff. "I made a very strong showing in the polls last November and I believe this is a result of the hard work of the staff of the treasurer's office," she said in a short address. "They have done a fine job for this city."

Leal outlined some new initiatives she hopes the treasurer's office will implement during her second term.

"We plan to close loopholes in the tax code that allow certain categories of taxpayers to avoid paying business taxes," she said. "We



Treasurer Susan Leal, left, with federal Judge Charles R. Breyer after she was sworn in to a second term Monday.

know that every loophole we close that means more money for programs we care about."

The Treasurer's office manages the city's multibillion dollar investment portfolio and also collects property, business, and other city taxes. Leal noted that the city's return on its investment has surpassed every major county in the state as well as the state's own investment portfolio.

"Over the last four years, we earned an average of \$433,000 per day, each and every day, including

weekends and holidays," she said. "Some of you may wonder why the performance of the treasurer's office is important to every San Franciscan," Leal said. "Well, it's more that just showing that a city department can perform well. Our work is essential because for every dollar we make in investments, that means more money for children, parks, San Francisco General Hospital.

"For example, the Board [of Supervisors] makes a pronouncement

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Herrera inaugurated as city attorney

by Cynthia Laird



Dennis Herrera, right, being sworn in as city attorney by state Supreme Court Justice Carlos R. Moreno.

Dennis Herrera became San Francisco's 32nd city attorney and the first person of color to hold the powerful post when he was sworn in Tuesday, January 8 in the Board of Supervisors chambers in City Hall.

Herrera, who surprised political observers with his come-from-behind win over the better financed Jim Lazarus in last month's runoff election, was administered the oath of office by California Supreme Court Justice Carlos R. Moreno before a packed house as his wife stood beside him with their infant son. He succeeds

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Gay Sperm Donors Wanted by Lesbians

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AIDS isn't over, DPH says

by Matthew S. Bajko

Attempting to counteract a growing complacency among the public toward AIDS, San Francisco HIV prevention officials issued a call to action Wednesday, January 9 to combat the city's rising rates of infection.

In 2002, health officials estimate that 1,084 San Francisco residents will become infected with HIV. Out of that total, it is estimated that 925 men who have sex with men, including injection drug users, will contract HIV. That number reflects a slight increase from the 835 gay and other MSM the city estimated became infected with HIV in 2001.

"The AIDS epidemic is not over. If only it were," declared Mitch Katz, the city's health director, at a press conference where he released a new document that reflects the current state of the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco.

"If only no one else was going to contract HIV, how wonderful that would be," said Katz. "It is a disease that is 100 percent preventable."

While California saw an overall drop in new AIDS cases last year, nationwide the number of people infected rose 8 percent in 2001, marking the first annual increase after seven consecutive years of declines, according to preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released this month. According to the figures, there were 42,008 new AIDS diagnoses reported in 2001, up from 38,864 in 2000.

The increases were highest on the East Coast. New York City alone reported a 47 percent increase in AIDS cases. AIDS cases also climbed in the Southeast - up 41 percent in both Georgia and North Carolina and up 4 percent in Florida. Among states showing decreases were California, down 9 percent; Michigan, down 28 percent; and Kansas, down 22 percent.

Also this month, the American Heart Association reported that AIDS was the number five killer of Americans in 1999, accounting for 14,802 deaths. The ranking is based on U.S. death rate information for 1999, the latest year for which statistics are available.

"We want to make sure people understand the human impact of HIV," said Katz as to why the city produced the new document, a condensing of the city's HIV prevention plan for 2001.

Released by the city's Department of Public Health and HIV Prevention Planning Council, the document cost \$20,000 to produce. The city printed 7,000 copies in both English and Spanish and intends to distribute it to politicians, school administrators, and local AIDS service organizations. The color glossy includes photos of HIV prevention workers and snapshots of their personal views on the AIDS epidemic.

"HIV prevention is something I listened to but it didn't affect me necessarily," said Stephan Hodgkinson, who began volunteering with the Stop AIDS Project after an ex-boyfriend tested positive.

He said he wanted his story to be included in the booklet in hopes it would make other gay men think about their sexual practices.

"We were not practicing safe sex. It is a miracle I dodged the bullet. After six months of testing, I still tested negative," he said.

Lisa Costa, a straight woman also featured in the booklet, said the material is unique in that it presents unedited personal stories of people fighting the AIDS epidemic.

"They took our own words and didn't edit anything I said," said Costa, who volunteers with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The book also includes information on how the city and different agencies are combating the spread of HIV. The document supports sex-positive HIV prevention efforts, which officials defended as not being contrary to federal guidelines. CDC standards prohibit agencies from promoting homosexual sex in prevention materials.

"The intent is to inform prevention providers how to do prevention work in San Francisco," said Steven Gibson, co-director of the Stop AIDS Project, whose agency last year was found to be using materials deemed "too sexy" by a federal investigator.

"What we are doing meets federal guidelines," said James Loyce, the city's director of AIDS policy. "We have not seen anyone change their materials. No one has asked about changing their materials." ▼

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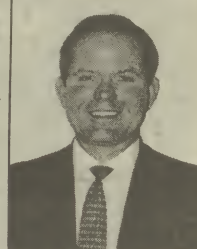
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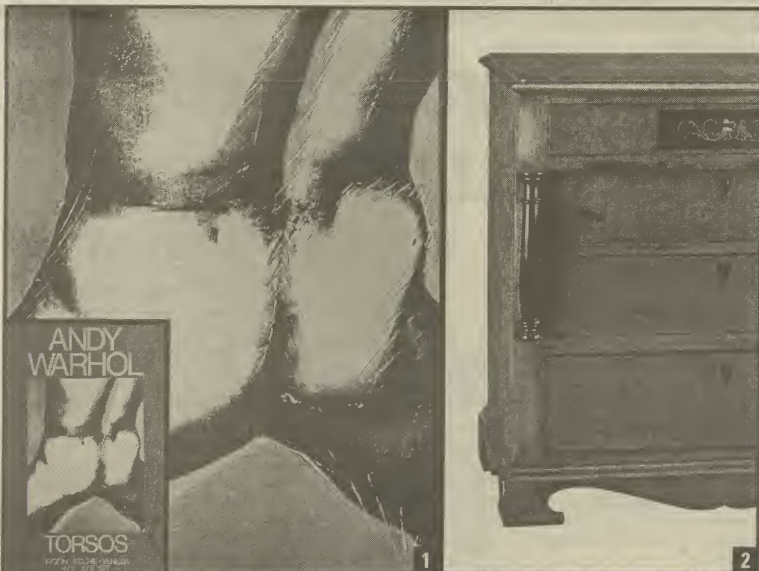
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Health Recovery Class: Mondays and Thursdays 1:30-3:30PM at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood. Open to all in the community, designed for those living with HIV/AIDS and other chronic, progressive diseases and mobility problems. This class is free to all, donations gratefully accepted.

In Palo Alto: Wednesdays 7:30-9PM. Starts Jan. 23rd at First Lutheran Church of Palo Alto, 600 Homer @ Webster



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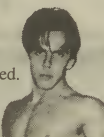


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Lesbian appointed to redistricting task force

by Matthew S. Bajko

Rebecca Prozan, a law student and political activist within the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, will help draw new boundaries for the city's 11 supervisorial districts by this summer. Mayor Willie Brown appointed the 30-year-old Prozan, who formerly worked as a special assistant to the mayor on LGBT issues, to the new Elections Task Force.

The task force must carve out new supervisorial districts based on the latest demographics from the U.S. Census conducted in 2000. Along with Prozan, Brown also appointed R. Bowman Leong, a businessman and Chinese American community leader, and John Murray, a member of both the city's and state's Recreation and Parks Commissions. San Francisco Department of Elections chief Tammy Haygood also must appoint members to the task force.

Prozan is a veteran political ac-



Rebecca Prozan

tivist, having worked on Mayor Brown's first campaign, and she was a member of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club in the 1990s, serving as its membership chair. In 1994, she volunteered on

Kathleen Brown's gubernatorial campaign.

She is a founding member and former president of the San Francisco Young Democrats Club. She also served five years on the board of the Raoul Wallenberg Jewish Democratic Club and was its political director for one year.

Currently, she co-chairs the Gay and Lesbian Caucus for the California Democratic Party. Prozan said she is excited to be part of the redistricting process and admits it is sure to be a complicated task.

"I am expecting a healthy debate that only San Francisco can understand. I need to be talking to a lot of different people and have to do a lot of research," said Prozan, a law student at Golden Gate University. "I want to draw the lines so everyone is happy and so everyone gets a place at the table."

After completing a year of constitutional law, Prozan said she is confident she is prepared for the job. She also hopes to avoid the

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Family groups to unite at new LGBT center

by Joe Dignan

Construction workers are still the only inhabitants of San Francisco's new LGBT Community Center, but the center's staff is beginning to make public some of the new programs that the center will house when it opens in March. The first to be unveiled is an ambitious gay family programming series put on through the combined efforts of Our Family Coalition and COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere), both of which will be tenants in the new building.

Our Family Coalition is itself a combination of two organizations, San Francisco's All Our Families Coalition and the East Bay's Our Family, which formally merged on January 1. Under its new name, the group will provide domestic partner registration and information and referrals for gay families.

"If people want to know which public adoption agencies or schools are LGBT-friendly, we'll be able to tell them that," said Charlie Spiegel, Our Family Coalition's interim director.

Spiegel believes that domestic partner registration is an important part of the organization's job, which also does political advocacy for gay families.

"We're hoping to offer a drop-in service," Spiegel said in late December. "California tourists who never thought about registering can do it. AB25 will be effective in January. It provides lots of new rights for domestic partners, but if they don't register, they're not covered."

AB25, authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), went into effect January 1. The new law gives domestic



Charlie Spiegel

partners some of the same benefits as married couples, including adoption rights, unemployment benefits, health insurance benefits, the right to act as conservator or probate administrator, and the right to sue for wrongful death of a partner.

Our Family Coalition will provide services for gay people seeking advice about parenting and will produce social events for gay parents and their young kids. Spiegel thinks that the collaboration with COLAGE is "a natural."

COLAGE produces events and provides support for the children of lesbians and gays. "This is a perfect fit because we can provide the kid's perspective and peer-oriented support for children who come from a unique experience," said Felicia Park-Rogers, executive director of COLAGE.

The two groups will jointly produce a series of "Family Mondays" which will be panel discussions and lectures, according to Spiegel, on subjects like the history of the LGBT family movement or a COLAGE panel for teens.

COLAGE will also produce an after-school drop-in program for

teens.

"When the children of queer parents go to school, there's nobody with a family like theirs," said Park-Rogers. "If they're lucky that works out okay. If they're not lucky, they have some tough experiences with people giving them a hard time. Either way, they're isolated."

"COLAGE is working to provide a space to talk about anything they want, which may or may not include their families. Where they can talk without being in the closet about their home lives. Middle school is horrible for everybody. But it can be especially hard if you have anything different about your family background."

"This new space will provide a focal point for community among our families," said Park-Rogers. "The kids who have succeeded, have a sense of being part of the queer community."

The center has two spaces for kids. Anne Tamar-Mattis, the center's program director, said that she hopes the center will provide what she calls "destination programming for children."

The two adjoining rooms will also be used to house a free child-watch service for parents attending other events in the center, and the center will hire a full-time staff person to manage this service.

Tamar-Mattis said that she hopes that children visiting the center "will grow up with a sense of our community. That they will grow up feeling like they're part of something whether they grow up to be straight or queer. That they know they have a community and that they know what that community is."

Tamar-Mattis, herself a mother of two, said, "I know as a parent how hard it is to get out of the house. I want to be worth getting out of the house for." ▼

Nominate grand marshals for this year's Pride Parade

by Katie Szymanski

In the ever-revolving cycle of Pride, it seems like just yesterday that the community was enjoying San Francisco's famous parade, and yet the time has come again to nominate grand marshals for yet another celebration.

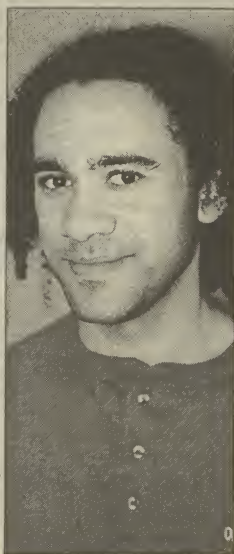
Search your minds and thumb through those Rolodexes for people and organizations worthy of such an honor, because nominations are due in the Pride office by Thursday, January 31.

Grand marshals of the Pride Parade are typically activists and other public figures who have made a mark locally and/or nationally and who have advanced LGBT people and causes.

"This is the time for us to acknowledge the heroes and heroines from our community, those who changed the world by being themselves," said Pride President Joshua Smith, invoking this year's Pride theme of "Be Yourself - Change the World."

Last year's grand marshals were Assemblywoman Carole Migden, activist Duane Cramer, Supervisor Mark Leno, sexologist Dr. Carol Queen, and leatherwoman "Mama" Sandy Reinhardt.

More than a dozen nominations have already come in for 2002, said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. All suggested nominees will be considered at the next Pride meeting in



Pride President Joshua Smith

February, at which point a final list of about 20 people will be compiled and put out into the community for voting. One recent change in the process, said Witherington, is that this year the public will no longer vote on a celebrity grand marshal, although nominations for the honor will still be accepted.

"Public voting on celebrities became a problem for us, almost like putting the cart before the horse," explained Witherington. "We were coming up with people we'd love to see as celebrity marshals and then seeing if those people were available. Last year that resulted in our not having a grand marshal in that category at all."

The celebrity marshal will be chosen internally but may be guided by community suggestion, particularly if a community member has a personal connection to a desired celebrity.

"People can still nominate celebrities and we would certainly follow up and see if they're available," said Witherington.

To nominate an individual, organization, and celebrity for grand marshal of the 32nd annual Pride Parade, include a brief bio as well as contact information for the nominee. Nomination forms can be found online and can be mailed to Grand Marshal Nominations, PMB 421, 1230 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Nominations may also be faxed to (415) 864-5889 or e-mailed to info@sfpride.org.

For more information, visit the Pride Web site at www.sfpride.org, which also contains instructions on how to become a community partner, sponsor a vending booth, and apply to be a nonprofit beneficiary of the festival.

San Francisco's Pride weekend will be held June 29 and 30. ▼

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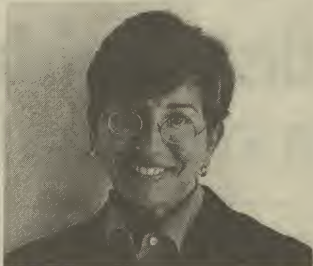
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Volume 32, Number 2
10 January 2002PUBLISHER
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OPEN FORUM

Intellectual dishonesty

The letters we have received from several readers concerning our coverage of accused American Taliban John Walker and his father, Frank Lindh, miss the point that Lindh, in attempting to hide his homosexuality or bisexuality, is being intellectually dishonest with the public. We have been called homophobic for writing about this part of the Walker saga, when nothing could be further from the truth.

The story we published last month was reporting on news that had already appeared in the *San Francisco Examiner*. We did not "out" Frank Lindh, as some have written; he, by his own actions, was already out.

The gay press was quick to jump on the Mark Bingham story when it was learned that he was likely involved in thwarting the hijackers on United Flight 93, forcing them to miss their intended target. The community embraced Bingham and wanted his sexual identity acknowledged.

Yet, when it is revealed that John Walker's father is gay, the community wants to bury its collective head in the sand and pretend it's not part of the story. It is part of the story, although its importance is an unanswered question at this point.

When Walker was first captured by American forces in Afghanistan, his mother, Marilyn Walker, at first said he must have been "brainwashed." Lindh was interviewed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and appeared on CNN, and said his son was "sweet and gentle." There was no mention of the apparent family upheaval that occurred when Lindh left his wife. And Lindh neglected to mention that his separation from his wife — reportedly when he left her to live with a man — occurred at about the same time as his son's conversion to Islam. While some in the community may want to deny it, Lindh's sexual orientation may be connected to Walker's decision to join an extremist branch of Islam. It is not homophobic to reach that conclusion. It is entirely possible that learning that one's parent is gay could be a wrenching discovery; Walker could have been dealing with feelings of homophobia or other emotions. Who knows?

But the revelations about Lindh do not mean that homosexuality is wrong, or bad, or that we shouldn't be parents, or that all children of lesbian or gay parents grow up

to become terrorists. Similarly, not all student pilots crash planes into skyscrapers, as happened last weekend in Tampa. Nor does the news about Lindh (as one letter writer put it) mean that we are exhibiting "self-hate homophobia."

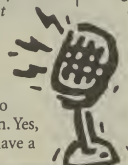
It would have been intellectually dishonest on our part if we had not covered the story. We are not in the business of overlooking what could be an important piece to the Walker puzzle just because it might cause the religious right to go ballistic. They do that on their own. Yes, the Christian conservatives may have a field day with the story as it unfolds, but they make fools out of themselves more often than not. Witness the near-unanimous condemnation that the Reverend Jerry Falwell received when he patently tried to blame the September 11 terrorist attacks on gays and liberals.

The moment that Lindh went on television to defend his captured son, as gay writer Michelangelo Signorile recently

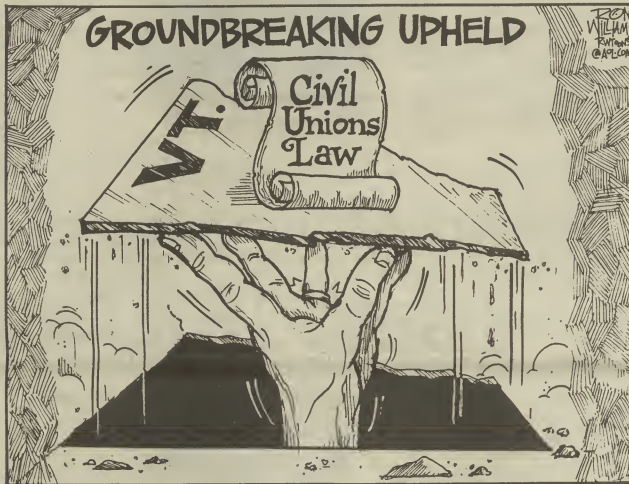
wrote, he became a public figure. If he had left his wife for another woman, it would have been reported. Why shouldn't Lindh leaving his wife for a man not be just as relevant? That would be treating homosexuality and heterosexuality equally, rather than relegating one to the level of a dirty little secret, Signorile wrote.

And it's not as if Lindh is deeply in the closet. He found it within himself to apparently speak out at a public church service in the Castro, asking the congregation to pray for his son, as his friend Bill Jones related in his angry letter to us. That action is not some sort of private confession; dozens of people were likely in attendance at MCC-SF, one of the largest churches in the Castro.

Lindh and his attorney, James Brosnahan, should have been up-front from the beginning once they started issuing press releases about the case and granting some media interviews. Being gay is nothing to be ashamed about. ▼



Editorial



After Renne's distinguished tenure, Herrera steps up to plate

by Jeff Sheehy

Last June, when City Attorney Louise Renne announced that she was not going to seek re-election, I was panic stricken. The equal benefits ordinance was — and is — still under legal challenge from both Pat Robertson's folks at the American Center for Law and Justice and United Airlines. The next step, in fact, may be the U.S. Supreme Court.

That case was not my only worry. While in office Renne had shown extreme sensitivity to issues affecting our community. For instance, she pioneered the use of civil restraining orders for victims of anti-gay harassment. This not only offered immediate relief to the victims but it created a new tool to alleviate some of the shortcomings of criminal hate crime laws.

The rest of her record has been equally impressive. When Louise Renne was named one of California's top 100 Lawyers in 2000, *California Lawyer* magazine wrote, "She has transformed what a city attorney's office does." All San Franciscans have benefited from her historic public interest lawsuits against big tobacco, gun makers, and lead paint manufacturers. The money she got from the tobacco companies has been used to rebuild Laguna Honda, an invaluable resource that compassionately housed many from our community at the height of the AIDS epidemic and continues to be home for people with AIDS.

Her courage in taking on giant corporate interests should not be underestimated. For instance, I have always appreciated the risk

she took when she stood up to the challenge from United Airlines. United is San Francisco International Airport's biggest tenant with over 50 percent of all flights. When the entire airline industry joined the lawsuit, many advised against fighting. I was told the airlines are too big and powerful and that Washington would never let them lose — let them have an exemption and forget about enforcing the equal benefits ordinance at the airport. Louise Renne never countenanced that absurd suggestion and now America's largest airlines offer domestic partner benefits worldwide. She has set a high standard and will be sorely missed.

The entrance of Dennis Herrera into the race to succeed her greatly eased my concerns. And thanks to a lot of hard work by many people and truly impressive unity and support from our community, Herrera won the race to be the next city attorney. Not only could I relax about the defense of the equal benefits ordinance — the other guy took a donation from one of the plaintiffs suing us — but also I could look forward to more progressive advocacy on behalf of ordinary San Franciscans.

For instance, Herrera, who was sworn in Tuesday, comes to the office with a record of fighting for transgender rights. As a member of the Police Commission, he initiated and expanded department programs to improve the treatment of transgender individuals by police officers. We can expect him to

maintain that commitment.

He plans to expand the resources available to the code enforcement unit and will organize it to focus more on neighborhood and tenant issues. Herrera intends to beef up the city's compliance with Sunshine laws. Every citizen has the right to know what city agencies and departments are doing. He has committed to aggressively pursue a sensible and affordable route to public power. Herrera plans to establish an integrity unit to respond to the all too frequent allegations of illegality, fraud, and abuse. Public trust has diminished. Hopefully, he will also succeed in prodding the mayor to take steps to reform the Elections Department and restore our trust in the democratic process.

To my mind, the ball is in our court. The challenge now is to our activists to come up with the next piece of legislation to push the limits of what the rest of America finds acceptable. And, luckily, we have a superb team of public interest attorneys under Dennis Herrera's leadership whom we can count on to lead the fight when that legislation raises the hackles of Pat Robertson or some corporation insistent on remaining unenlightened. ▼

Local activist Jeff Sheehy helped write the equal benefits ordinance. He is a past president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

'Homophobic garbage'

Do not go out and buy the current issue of the *National Enquirer*. Just read the garbage at the newsstand about how a parent's homosexuality can turn your child into a "Charles Manson." And speaking of homophobic garbage, the headline in the local gay rag reads, "Does it matter that John Walker's father is gay?" [Bay Area Reporter, December 27.]

When my son died in 1996 from an overdose of heroin, the B.A.R. would have had their headline in bold blue letters, "Does it matter that Aaron Jones's father is gay?"

This is yellow journalism with obvious self-hate homophobia that stirs everyone's soul. Who among us doesn't feel a residue of guilt about being gay? How often must we pour ashes on our heads in shame? The B.A.R. and the *Enquirer* are in business to tell us. And then there are those like Wayne Friday, the gay political gossip columnist in the B.A.R., who has set himself up "outing" Frank [Lindh] when he learned that Frank attended the MCC church and asked the congregation to pray for his son. And then, armed with rumors and no credible information, sets himself up as judge and jury and declares John a "traitor." "Case closed."

I hope his readers can read through his bullshit and not repeat his homophobic, judgmental, smelly ideas to anyone else as "factual." And certainly we gay people should not let him and the news staff of these papers make us feel that our gayness creates anything like drug addiction or traitors to our country in our children. Case closed.

Bill Jones
San Rafael, California



Mailstrom

Pile of nonsense

What a steaming pile of hypocritical nonsense I read in the December 27 edition of the *Bay Area Reporter*. The simple answer to the question posed by the headline of your page 1 story, "Does it matter that John Walker's father is gay?" is no.

What a double standard to read in a gay publication that somehow by having a gay parent, one is excused from making very unwise choices. As if having a gay father is such a horrible thing. If one of the Bible-thumping right wing had said such a thing, we, as a community, would have our collective panties in such a knot that the screaming could have been heard in Jalalabad.

A person's sexuality, or that of his/her parents, is coincidental to conscious decisions to join a group of Islamic extremists. Give me a damn break.

So using your logic, it would be okay for one of my nephews to join the IRA or one of those abortion clinic bombing groups because I, his uncle, am oh so gay. Whatever happened to personal responsibility?

Mark Jackson
San Francisco

Small stature, enormous heart

I am writing in response to Andrew J. Betancourt's letter "A gift for Tommi" that was published last week.

I have known Tommi for many years and we do not always agree on issues, but we are able to discuss our differences in an adult, civil manner without descending to personal attacks on our clothing, home decor, or size.

In Mr. Betancourt's letter, he implies that Tommi does not work. Tommi has worked hard since he was 12 years old. He paid for his education at Temple University. Tommi has chosen to use his education and keen intelligence to work for a better community and world for all of us. His many hours of civic work have been in addition to full time employment.

I am not aware of all the things that Tommi has done, but do know of his work on the following:

In 1972, Tommi chaired the Gay Liberation Front at Temple University, and worked to stop the practice of aversion therapy on gay men. In 1973, he founded the first transgender group in Philadelphia. He was the president of the Gay Activists Alliance in Philadelphia. He served on the board of the queer community center of Philadelphia. He worked with the Green Circle Program, a national program that fought racism and sexism in schools and among youth. He founded the Gay/Lesbian Archives of Philadelphia.

Tommi has written for numerous publications and has published poetry. His stories and articles are included in a variety of books, including a college text.

Tommi has worked as a reporter and was the managing editor of the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

Tommi has written and produced many plays. He founded *Avalanche*, the first multiracial, queer theater in the U.S. The mayor of Philadelphia awarded him a citation for his play about AIDS. He also helped produce the first Art Against AIDS event in Philadelphia.

Since moving to San Francisco, Tommi has been active in local politics, giving many hours of volunteer time after his work hours. He has used his skills to speak for those whose voices are not usually heard. He worked on Proposition 187, the anti-immigrant measure, Proposition 209, the anti-affirmative action measure, Proposition E, the anti-rent control mea-

sure, Proposition G, a measure which extended protections against evictions, and worked on the Proposition H, L, and N campaigns. He helped organize the Castro committee for homeless, queer youth. He helped organize and coordinate a Friday meal program at MCC.

Currently Tommi works at the Housing Rights Committee.

Tommi may be small in stature, but his heart and commitment to social justice are enormous.

I feel lucky to know someone like Tommi who does not judge a person's worth by their size, the labels on their clothing, or the origin and cost of their home furnishings.

Janice L. Winchester
San Francisco

Tommi's activism

John Cailleau rightly calls us to guard our freedoms vigilantly [Mailstrom, January 3]. Just below that thoughtful and timely letter, some bore wastes space sharing his personal feelings about "little Tommi" Avicoli: Mecca, author and activist. If anyone else shares his odd obsession, let them first read Marc Stein's excellent history, *City of sisterly and brotherly loves: Lesbian and Gay Philadelphia, 1945-1972* (University of Chicago, 2000).

Rational queers debate principles, not personalities. An "argument ad hominem" isn't a real argument, just noise.

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San Francisco

Seniors and sexual orientation

Last month there was an article in the *San Francisco Examiner* entitled "Questions get too personal for seniors." We support the policy adopted by the city's senior centers to include the optional question about sexual orientation on their intake forms. In fact, we initiated the idea.

Our experience over more than four decades of social and political activism taught us that the gains lesbian and gay, and more recently bisexual and transgender, people make are dependent upon visibility. It is extremely difficult to be an advocate for an invisible constituency. That is why there has been so much emphasis on "coming out." Needs assessments are required to determine which groups receive financial assistance and at what amount. To comply with the Older Americans Act and the recommendations of the White House Conference on Aging requires government to target all populations.

Numbers count. We know that those who are out in our peer group (ages 60-plus) represent just the tip of the iceberg. The sexual orientation question is one way to let closeted LGBT elders know that the city's agencies are LGBT sensitive and only want to help us qualify for full services.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights not only takes on cases of discrimination, but its Elder Law Project offers assistance in determining what legal documents clients may need (such as wills, powers of attorney, etc.) to protect their rights and estates.

New Leaf Outreach to LGBT Elders (formerly GLOE) provides various health services, social events, and referrals.

As more LGBT seniors identify themselves the better the services they need, and deserve, will become.

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon
San Francisco

Thanks to many

Once again I stand amazed at the generosity of so many and their partnership with me in making a holiday dream come true. Together we raised nearly \$15,000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund with the recent two nights of Songs of the Season, while ushering in the holidays with amazing talent and heartfelt performances. For the second year in a row both nights were completely sold out.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to my producer Bob Brunson; co-producer Richard Sablatura; angel sponsors Bob Ross, Lu Conrad, and Fitz Fleming; Santa sponsors Dave Morey, Russell Kassman, Marlana, Joe Granese (Daddy's Bar), Brenda Barnette and Marguerite Judson, and Eric Weinmann and Don McMartin (The Edge bar); and Elf sponsors Mark Leno, the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, and Gardner Pond and Edward Emond; my wonderfully talented cast of performers; and Trevor Logan and the tireless staff of The Plush Room. Songs of the Season is an annual dream come true thanks to them and the enthusiastic audiences who support our efforts. There are so many worthy causes and so many individuals still in need; Songs of the Season will be there for as long as it serves a genuine purpose and for as long as you, my friends, are there to make it happen. Thank you and may your 2002 be filled with treasured moments!

Donna Sachet
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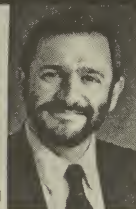
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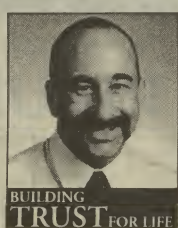
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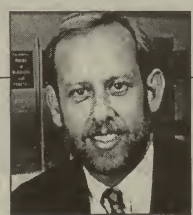
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The American Taliban's gay dad

by Dale Carpenter

It turns out everyone is gay. I mean, not only the notable historical figures like Alexander the Great, Michelangelo, Lincoln, and Hitler, but the main actors in our modern dramas, too.

September 11 is the most recent example. The terrorists who flew the planes into the buildings were gay, we're told. One of the pilots wrested from his seat at the controls of the plane the gay terrorists flew into the Pentagon was gay. The guy who saved the White House from certain destruction by foiling the gay hijackers was gay.

At least, I've been consoling myself, John Walker, the 20-year-old wretch who joined the Taliban and was recently captured in Afghanistan, isn't gay.

Well, if reports now surfacing can be believed, his dad is.

Walker's life story is gradually coming to light and some cultural critics are having lots of fun with it. Walker was raised by his parents, Frank and Marilyn Lindh, in Northern California, specifically Marin County, home to beautiful vistas, affluence, and oh-so-politically-correct politics.

His mother, whom *Newsweek* describes as "a child of the '60s," home-schooled him for a while. After that, his parents sent him to a progressive private school where students determine their own curriculum and are required only to update a teacher on their progress once a week.

At about the age of 16, Walker went from a teenage hip-hop obsession to a fanatical devotion to Islam. He began wearing a white robe, a pillbox hat, and started calling himself Suleyman. He regularly attended mosque and determined to memorize every verse in the Koran. Walker's parents were "proud of John for pursuing an alternative course," says his dad. They didn't object when he dropped out of high school and took the high school equivalency exam. At the same time, his parents split up.

Unhappy in America, Walker eventually journeyed to the Middle East and wound up in league with the most extreme Islamic fundamentalists of them all.

When captured, he told reporters he "supported" the September 11 attack.

Walker's turn to religious extremism, some cultural critics are hypothesizing, must have been a product of his excessively indulgent upbringing. Having drifted in the I'm-OK-You're-OK moral relativism that dominated his childhood milieu, Walker was desperately seeking structure and guidance in life. Fundamentalist Islam would fill that need by commanding him how to think, dress, act, speak, and eat.

That proposition in itself is debatable. Lots of kids grow up in a rudderless home environment but very few become religious fanatics. And at least a few kids grow up in good Christian homes only to become wanton murderers. Think Columbine.

Now we can add to this speculative hypothesizing one more element sure to draw more attention when and if Walker is ever tried in an American court. According to a columnist for the *San Francisco Examiner*, when Walker's parents split up Frank Lindh left the family to move in with his male lover. This, according to unidentified "sources close to the family," left the 16-year-old Walker "startled and flustered."

There will, I suspect, be a strong temptation in gay circles to deny that the homosexuality of Walker's dad was connected in any way his son's bizarre life path. Already, columnist Michelangelo Signorile has written that "[t]he sexual orientation of John Walker's parents, like their liberal politics and tolerant attitude toward child-rearing, did not cause Walker to join the Taliban." It will be said that the suggestion there is such a connection is homophobic.

Why are we afraid of the obvious? If it turns out that Walker's dad left the house when Walker was 16 to live with his gay lover, and if it's true that Walker's turn to bizarre fundamentalism followed that event, it is not necessarily homophobic and indeed quite plausible to assume that the event at least partly explains the

boy's turn to extreme religion. Suddenly learning that one's parent is gay must be a very traumatic event in a person's life, especially in a teenage boy's, and might influence all manner of rebellion.

Conceding this relationship is just a recognition of reality in modern America, where homosexuality is still a shameful thing in most families.

The real problem arises when commentators use the relationship between the father's homosexuality and Walker's behavior to draw policy conclusions like, "This shows homosexuality is damaging and must be repressed," or, "This shows gays are bad parents."

The opposite would be the right conclusion. If homosexuality weren't stigmatized, the emotional trauma of the revelation to Walker wouldn't have been as severe as it presumably was, or at least it wouldn't have been more severe than the revelation that his father had left his mother to run off with another woman. The major shock would come in the fact that the father left the mother for a lover, not in learning the sex of the lover.

Additionally, in a world that didn't stigmatize gays, Walker's father might have realized earlier in life that he was gay, or he might have acted openly on the realization earlier in life. Either way, the absence of stigma might have prevented a disastrous marriage and the traitorous product of it.

Walker's dad did exactly what the religious right wants men to do: he married a woman. To the extent the son's sins can be laid at the father's feet at all, they are just another harmful consequence of socially enforced heterosexuality.

Of course, before we psychoanalyze Walker too closely it might be best to wait to hear from him directly.

But let's not lose too much sleep when it turns out some bad person, or the relative of some bad person, is gay. After all, as we've been saying, we're everywhere. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Redistricting

◀ page 4

legal wrangling and criticisms brought about by recent redistricting of statewide districts.

A Mexican-American group filed suit to fight those new district lines in court. And gay political activists in San Francisco were flooded last year to learn the boundary between two state Senate seats now runs down the middle of Castro Street.

As a board member of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, Prozan said she was made fully aware of the community's reaction to the division of the Castro. The organization discussed with the various political groups what actions could be taken to remedy the situation.

While the groups had hoped to fight the new boundaries in court, they are pursuing legislation to ensure there is better communica-

tion and information in the future redrawing of districts.

State Senator Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough) has agreed to carry legislation that would require more time be given to local groups to review the new boundaries and that any maps of the new districts show the name of the streets where the lines are drawn. Due to the redrawn lines, Speier now represents a portion of the Castro.

"The preliminary maps didn't have enough detail to show the lines had been drawn down the Castro," explained Paul Hogan as to why no one caught the division until after the new lines had been approved by the Legislature. "I think we learned in that case that it really pays to be vigilant while the discussions are ongoing rather than after the fact because it makes it harder to change."

Hogan, chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, said his and other local political groups will be watching the re-

drawing of the supervisorial districts closely to ensure there are no surprises.

"We greatly care where the boundaries are drawn. Obviously, we will be concerned about maintaining communities of interest within the GLBT communities," said Hogan. "The boundaries of District 8 [held by Mark Leno] are great and we want them to remain. The same goes for District 9 [held by Tom Ammiano] as well."

Having worked with Prozan as vice chair of the Democratic caucus she chairs, Hogan said he thinks she has the right qualifications to sit on the task force.

"I think Rebecca has incredible credibility within the community. Through her work in the mayor's office, she was able to have contacts with both the Harvey Milk Club side of things and the Alice side of things," said Hogan. "She will be very fair in making sure all LGBT interests are heard." ▼

S.F. Democrats endorse Doris Ward

by Wayne Friday

It seems this column manages to print an error every once in a while.

Due to an erroneous phone call I received, last week I wrote that the San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee had recently endorsed former Supervisor **Mabel Teng** for assessor over incumbent **Doris Ward** in the March 5 primary.



Assessor Doris Ward

Wrong. A mistake. Simply not true.

On the night the DCCC voted, I received a phone call from someone allegedly at the meeting who promptly informed me that the central committee members had voted 15-12 to endorse Teng over Ward. Didn't happen. Instead, it was Ward who received the party's endorsement with 15 votes to 12 for Teng, with a lone vote going to another candidate, **Ronald Chun**.

This column apparently wasn't the only one to get the incorrect information; seems the *Bay Guardian* went with the same misinformation. This column received a number of anxious (hysterical?) phone calls about the mistake and I am only too happy to report the correction. The San Francisco Democratic Party has officially endorsed Assessor Doris Ward for re-election in the March 5 primary.

In my opinion, Ward has been a good public servant and deserves another term as assessor. Former Sheriff/Assessor/Supervisor/Police Chief **Richard Hongisto** is also a candidate for assessor in March, as well as two other candidates, **Jim Rodriguez** and **John Farrell**. If no candidate wins a majority of the votes there will be a runoff election for assessor between the top two candidates in the November general election.

In other action recently, the Democratic County Central Committee endorsed Public Defender **Kimiko Burton** over her challenger **Jeff Adachi** and endorsed all seven county propositions appearing on the March 5 ballot.

Politics and people

The March 5 primary election will be the first time in which those voters who are registered to vote but decline to state a party affiliation (an "independent" voter) will be allowed to vote in the Democratic, Republican, American Independent, or Natural Law party primaries. An estimated 14 percent of the state's registered voters are not affiliated with any political party and they will have an advantage that others will not

have. They can wait until the last minute until they request their absentee ballot or until they reach the neighborhood polling place to decide which primary, if any, they wish to participate in.

These independent voters do have some restrictions, however, in that they must pick one party's ballot only for that election. They cannot, for example, vote in the Republican primary for governor and the Democratic party for state Assembly, and they cannot vote at all for members of a party's local central committee. These independent voters could become very important, particularly if the Republican primary for governor between candidates **Bill**

Jones, **Richard Riordan**, and **William Simon** is close. Clearly, those independent voters could play a role in swinging the GOP gubernatorial primary to one of the three candidates.

For most voters, however, the March 5 primary will be closed; if you are registered with a political party, you can only vote in that party's primary. You can change your party affiliation until February 18, which is 15 days before the election, but after that, you're stuck. Democrats will get Democratic ballots; Republicans will get Republican ballots, etc.

Speaking of the March GOP gubernatorial primary, Secretary of State **Bill Jones** got off a zinger recently at the expense of GOP opponent **Riordan** when referring to **Riordan's** past habits of often donating to Democratic candidates (including Governor **Gray Davis**) by making this crack: "My real question for him [Riordan] is who is he going to vote for in November, me or Gray Davis?"

The Jack is back: Star political consultant **Jack Davis** (Jack Davis & Associates) is coming back from his ranch in Arizona to get back in the campaign consulting business. Davis, who won the last three mayoral campaigns in the city, the Giants ballpark vote, etc., and is one of the best in the business, is apparently getting bored with life in the Arizona desert and is going to be taking on clients again. Hey, the guy is expensive, but the best. I doubt that any of the current local candidates can afford him, but knowing Davis, I'm sure he'll be influential in at least a couple of races - local and statewide.

The Vermont Supreme Court has rejected two efforts to reverse recent legislation that granted gay couples many of the rights and benefits of marriage. One claim, brought by town clerks who said that issuing marriage-like civil union licenses to gay couples violated their religious beliefs, was rejected in part because clerks could delegate the function to assistants. The other claim held that the \$1 bets made by some legislators about the outcome of a vote on the civil union measure should have disqualified them. The state high court said that was a matter best left to the House.

And in Lansing, Michigan, a bill expanding that state's domestic violence law to unmarried partners is expected to become law. Anyone found guilty of abuse

could face up to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine. Now, anyone accused of abusing an unmarried partner may be charged with nothing more than assault, punishable by a maximum 90-day prison sentence and a \$500 fine.

After more than a week of virtual seclusion at his Texas ranch, President **George W. Bush** made a burst of high-profile appearances last weekend across the country, making speeches attacking the Democratic-controlled Senate, issuing his "over my dead body" remark about possible tax increases, and using his new wartime popularity to play partisan politics to promote his domestic priorities (he has

any?). Bush spoke at a GOP-staged rally in Ontario, California, strutting back and forth across a high school stage, chest puffed out so far that reporters traveling with him were reminded of his 2000 campaign. Bush, while still unable to find **Osama bin Laden**, knows he's kicked ass with the Taliban, has all but won in Afghanistan, and seems eager to hit the 2002 congressional campaign trail. Yep, the famous "Junior" Bush swagger and even the annoying smirk is back, and we've got to know that Senate Majority Leader **Tom Daschle** (D-South Dakota) and the Democrats are ready and willing to meet him head-on - particularly on his sorry domestic issues. Bush should remember (and I'm sure he does) that his daddy, **George Sr.**, won the Persian Gulf War, was running high in the polls, but lost his own re-election bid a year later, largely because of voter dissatisfaction with his handling of the economy. That's the same problem **George Junior** is now facing as the recession continues and unemployment keeps growing, and even the recipients of the tax refund realize it is the reason the country's budget surplus is now gone.

Political wisdom has it that an endorsement for any political candidate this year from a firefighters' organization is considered "top political currency." A recent story from Scripps-McClatchy News stated that "an endorsement from a state firefighters organization in the aftermath of September 11 is priceless," and added that politicians are making a beeline to the doors of the California Professional Firefighters, the 28,000-member union whose stamp of approval is thought to be more important than ever this election cycle. With the visual images of New York firefighters' bravery and tragedy perhaps forever embedded in the collective public consciousness, and while there never has been a downside to having firefighters' support, their endorsement is now more important than ever. Hey, that should please Supervisor **Mark Leno** and his supporters since the California firefighters some time ago gave him their blessings in the 13th Assembly District race.

Clinton-era officials running for office this year include former Attorney General **Janet Reno** (D), running for governor of Florida; former Labor Secretary

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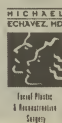
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Unfinished business

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

As I look back at 2001, I realize how much is still left in our community's "in box." Unfinished business we will take on in 2002 and beyond.

There is a maxim in the world of activism: there is always work to be done. I think this is doubly true in transgendered circles, where every piece of ground we

gain – no matter how monumental – is only a baby step on the road to larger things.

Don't get me wrong: a lot of headway was made in 2001. One of the biggest was gaining equal health benefits for transgendered city and county employees within San Francisco. This is monumental, not only for those who will benefit from it, but for the city. It puts San Francisco in a place that few other locations are even close to considering.

Yet, while city employees will benefit from this, it is only a handful of people. It really only means that one known employer in San Francisco is willing to allow these benefits, and that took a struggle to achieve. Will any other businesses in the city take the plunge? Are there any other cities whose leaders are ready to bring their own proposal to the table?

The health benefits package is a small part of a much larger item – San Francisco's 1994 anti-discrimination ordinance. There is still unfinished business there, too. There is a city task force working

hard to make sure that all parts of the city's compliance guidelines are being adequately covered, and I can speak from personal experience that the task force's work is cut out for its members.

Wish the task force luck in 2002.

San Francisco is one of very few cities that have such an ordinance, and there are only two areas that include similar coverage statewide.

It's not even close to being introduced on a national level. In fact, the only chance we've had at nationwide protections, via the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, has routinely excluded any language pertaining to gender presentation or transgendered status. There are many people working hard to get other cities and states to cover transgendered people in anti-discrimination ordinances – but there is a lot more yet to do.

It gets worse: a recent court decision in Minnesota (*Goins v. West Group*) might very well pave the way for that state to repeal its protections of transgendered individuals. In the worst-case scenario, this could lead to a string of losses along the line of those kicked off in Miami-Dade County in the mid-1970s.

Indeed, the *Goins* case, coupled with *Gardner v. Gardner* in Kansas – and the earlier *Littleton v. Prang* – throw into doubt a lot of the legal standards for transsexuals, potentially creating a legal morass when it comes to the legal status of anyone who has undergone a gender transition. The latter two cases could cast serious doubt on whether a transsexual can marry a male or a female – rights that were won by transsexual activists three decades ago.

As someone who has legally married a woman, and who is a woman herself, these are things that keep me up at night.

We are also still lagging when it comes to hate crime legislation. While much anti-transgender violence would probably fall under gay or lesbian statutes, there are still many locations that do not have such. Even then, there are plen-

ty of places with such laws, but with law enforcement that does not want to enforce these ordinances: most transgendered people who were murdered in 2001 were not investigated as hate crimes.

I doubt I need to remind readers that 2001 was yet another year where one person a month was reported murdered due to anti-transgender violence. Seeing that number dwindle is a bit of unfinished business that I personally hope gets done!

There have been other developments in 2001 that are worth exploring – and which also leave work to be completed. For example, we saw the first positive transgendered character as a regular on a television program – Erica, on *The Education of Max Bickford*. It was a major step within the entertainment industry, especially considering how little has been said about it, in light of the usual protests and counterprotests that have encompassed most GLBT characters in programs past.

I have heard that Erica is being written out of the show, the victim of retooling efforts. I suspect that

we'll not be seeing another such character for a while, and only after yet more work.

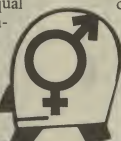
There is still much to do with the large screen, too. While we have seen a wave of transgender-related films since the popularity of *Boys Don't Cry*, the numbers are still small, and still mainly inhabit the independent film market. Transgender-related efforts from the big studios are still limited to "man in a dress" gags in films like last summer's *Rat Race* or *American Outlaws*.

I'll not even get into the mainstream print media, which still largely ignores the proper pronouns for transgendered people, in spite of changes in the *Associated Press Stylebook* two years ago.

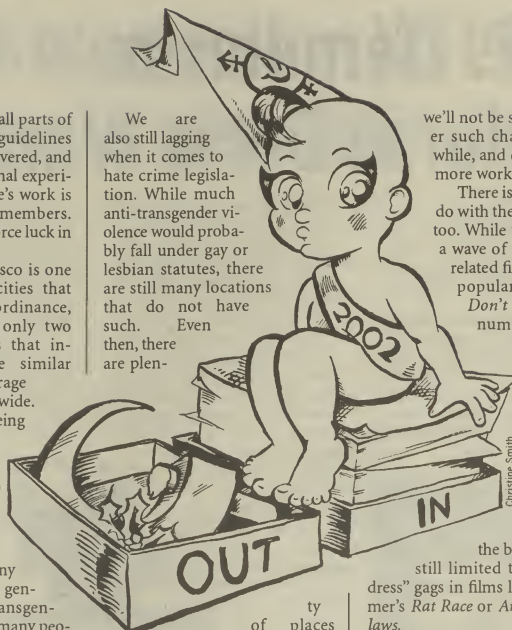
This may all seem somewhat discouraging. All these gains made in the last year, reduced in the presence of the Herculean tasks that still are to be tackled, or belittled in the face of ground we've lost in the same time period. I don't really mean to do that.

Instead, look at it from the opposite end: while there are still many unfinished tasks on the table, we have gained a lot of ground. The steps we've made in the last year, coupled with work done over several decades, represent great strides forward – and all these steps will add up as we reach for our major goals: equality and freedom. ▼

Gwen Smith is proud to say that she survived 2001 mostly intact. She can be found on the web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.



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Susan Leal

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ment that there will be more shelters or drug treatment for the homeless ... well, you can't do it unless the treasury brings in the money."

Another new initiative she hopes to implement is to collect the city's development impact fees. Those are the millions of dollars that are to be paid by developers to special funds earmarked for housing, child care, parks, and Muni. Currently, Leal said, those funds are collected by the individual departments, such as Planning and Muni.

"Many of these dollars have been paid late or not at all," she said.

Leal added that she's supporting legislation sponsored by Supervisors Jake McGoldrick and Aaron Peskin that would allow the treasurer's office to collect the fees.

"This would allow the department with the money expertise to assume these collection efforts," Leal said. "Put it another way, Planning would be allowed to focus on urban planning issues, Muni can focus on keeping the buses rolling, and the treasury should handle the money. We be-

lieve we can bring in millions of dollars that otherwise might be lost."

Leal also said that her office would seek to work with the Board of Supervisors, mayor, and other department heads to clarify how money is spent, particularly regarding large capital projects.

"I'm not talking about interfering in the board's or the mayor's decisions on where to spend the money," she said.

Our Man Friday

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Robert Reich (D), running for governor of Massachusetts; and former White House chief-of-staff **Erskine Bowles** (D), planning to run for the U.S. Senate in North Carolina, hopefully, replacing the hateful **Jesse Helms**.

Incidentally, speaking of the Massachusetts gubernatorial contest, Acting Governor **Jane Swift**, a Republican, has tapped an openly gay man, **Patrick C. Guerriero**, as her lieutenant governor running mate. Guerriero, a longtime aide to Swift, is not assured of being on the November ballot however; he is being opposed in an earlier primary by another Re-

publican, with millions of dollars to spend and a well-known name.

Assemblyman **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) is slated to be speaker of the California Assembly today and assume the important post on February 6. Wesson, the second African American in state history to hold the speaker post, will be the fourth Democratic speaker in roughly five years, and the seventh speaker since **Willie Brown** reluctantly departed the office due to term limits.

Incidentally, it was then-Speaker (now S.F. Mayor) Brown who once said that trying to lead 79 other diverse, demanding, independently-elected assemblymembers was like "trying to herd a bunch of cats."

And how was your week? ▼

Noel, Knoller now want separate trials

by Ed Walsh

Prosecutors are gearing up to fight a defense motion asking for separate trials for Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, the caretakers of the dogs involved in the fatal mauling of Diane Whipple nearly one year ago.

In court papers filed last Thursday, January 3, lawyers for the attorney couple argued that unless they are tried separately, each would be unfairly tainted by the damaging comments or conduct of the other. The issue will be taken up at a hearing on Monday, January 14.

In an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* a day after the papers were filed, Knoller said that the motion was not indicative of a rift between the couple.

"I love my husband deeply and there's no personal issues," Knoller said.

Knoller declined to talk about the filing in more detail, citing the court-imposed gag order.

A separate hearing on Friday, January 11 will deal with a motion

by media organizations to unseal all of the grand jury transcripts and to lift the gag order on the case.

In the court papers, Noel's attorney, Bruce Hotchkiss, pointed out that Knoller, who was with the dogs during the January 26, 2001 mauling of Whipple, neglected to put a muzzle on Bane, the male dog that instigated the attack.

"Again, it was Ms. Knoller who did not use a muzzle on Bane on the day of the death" wrote Hotchkiss. "Mr. Noel was not in a position where he could have put a muzzle on Bane that day."

"It will be impossible for a jury, no matter how well instructed, to disregard the testimony about Ms. Knoller's actions on the day in question, and focus solely on Mr. Noel's culpability."

Knoller's attorney, Nedra Ruiz, pointed out a damaging comment made by Noel. She wrote about an incident when Noel is purported to have called a dog walker in his neighborhood a "bitch" when she suggested that Noel should put a muzzle on Bane.

Ruiz also recounted a letter written by Noel to the couple's

clubs and elected leaders. The *Bay Area Reporter* also endorsed his candidacy.

"I believe this role is to serve the public interest in the broadest terms possible," Herrera said. "A public office is not a job, it's something to do for the public."

The city attorney's office provides legal services to the mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the more than 100 city departments, commissions, and other boards.

Herrera said he would like to look into revenue recovery and risk management among his initial goals. Revenue recovery, he noted, would be important given the recession. In terms of risk management, Herrera said he believes it's important to be preventive as a way of avoiding potential costly litigation.

Code enforcement is also important, he said, adding he would like to see the city attorney's office be more involved in neighborhood protection.

Herrera also spoke of establishing lines of communication with other city leaders and "engaging in sunshine and open government."

"I look forward to working with Mayor Brown, [Board of Supervisors] President Ammiano and I pledge myself to honor your dedication," Herrera told the audience. "I want to prove that the opportunity is not wasted." ▼



Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller in police booking photos.

adopted son, state prison inmate Paul "Cornfed" Schneider, in which Noel describes Whipple as a "timorous mousy blonde" after Noel passed her in their building while walking Hera, the couple's female dog.

Ruiz also pointed out an incident in which one of the couple's dogs lunged after a boy while in Noel's control.

"Knowledge of incidents such as this one will be attributed to defendant Knoller because [Noel] is married to defendant Knoller," wrote Ruiz.

The January 14 hearing will also take up a defense motion to exclude a laundry list of potential evidence and testimony against the couple.

Among the items that Hotchkiss is asking to be kept out:

- Any testimony about sex or introduction of correspondence

about sexual conduct between the defendants and themselves and anyone else.

- Any testimony about the couple's adoption of Schneider.

- Any testimony concerning prison gangs.

- "On the grounds of hearsay," any statements Diane Whipple made to anyone about a dog bite on her wrist that was alleged to have been inflicted "by Bane and/or Hera" prior to the January 26 attack.

Ruiz asked that many of the same items be excluded. She emphasized that there was "no evidence whatsoever that [Knoller] was involved in a conspiracy to breed dogs."

In response, the San Francisco District Attorney's office argued that the court should admit all relevant evidence and that "Knoller and Noel must not be given shel-

ter from their own cold words and actions."

Prosecutors argued in the court papers that the jury should know that Schneider is Noel and Knoller's adopted son because it had bearing on Schneider's "bias and motive to lie."

Noel and Knoller are fighting to keep out any reference to the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. Corrections officials say that Schneider and his cellmate, Dale Bretches, are members of the gang. The men maintain that they are the joint legal owners of Hera and Bane.

Prosecutors dismissed the defense's claim that statements Whipple made about being bitten by one of the dogs is hearsay. Prosecutors argued that her statement is an exception to the hearsay rule under the "spontaneous statement exception" because Whipple told her partner Sharon Smith she was bitten "while still under the stress of excitement caused by that bite."

Because of number and items that will be brought up, Monday's hearing is expected to extend a day or two.

Knoller is being charged with second-degree murder. Noel faces a charge of involuntary manslaughter. The couple also face a charge of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. The couple remain in custody in the San Francisco County Jail.

The trial is scheduled to start January 22 in downtown Los Angeles. ▼

Dennis Herrera

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longtime City Attorney Louise Renne, who announced last year that she would not seek re-election.

Rocky Delgadillo, who was elected last year as Los Angeles' city attorney, was proud that two Latinos hold the posts in two of the state's major cities.

"It's a good trend, I like it," Delgadillo said. "Like Dennis, I was a come-from-behind winner."

Former state Senator Art Torres, who now chairs the California Democratic Party, said it was "important to recognize leadership that happens to be Latino."

In his inaugural address, Herrera praised Renne, who was once named lawyer of the year by *California Lawyer* magazine for her many accomplishments, including taking on the powerful gun and tobacco interests, and who is credited with bringing public interest law to the city attorney's office. Renne's office has also been aggressive in defending the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance, which is still tied up in court and which Herrera has promised to continue defending.

During the final weeks of last year's runoff campaign, Herrera had wide support from the LGBT community, including its political

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Gay Massachusetts Republican campaigns for lieutenant governor

by Matthew S. Bajko

In declaring his candidacy for lieutenant governor of Massachusetts, Patrick Guerriero hopes to become the first non-incumbent, openly gay, statewide elected official in the country.

A deputy chief of staff in Republican acting Governor Jane Swift's administration, the 33-year-old Guerriero, who is single, announced last week he had accepted Swift's invitation to be her running mate. He immediately re-

signed his position to campaign full-time. The announcement is seen as a public relations coup for Swift, who has been criticized for her stance against gay marriage.

"We have agreed to disagree on gay marriage. There is not full consensus in any community on that issue," Guerriero told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a phone interview. "This governor stands for fairness and equality as well as any other candidate I am aware of. She has supported hate crimes laws and the state's safe schools initiatives. She supports funding for

HIV and AIDS and breast cancer at historic levels. And she supports domestic partner benefits."

A former three-term state House member and two-term mayor of Melrose, Massachusetts, Guerriero has a proven track record of supporting gay rights legislation and won national acclaim for his support of a gay-straight alliance program at Melrose High School. As a House member, he was instrumental in seeing passage of a bill several years ago that allowed the city of Boston to offer domestic partner health insurance.

"Patrick has an excellent reputation as an advocate for the gay and lesbian community in the Statehouse," said Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, a nonpartisan political lobbying group. "It will cause a rift among many in the gay community who normally and historically support Democrats. And many are saying they would now consider switching in this election if Guerriero is on the ticket."

First step

The first step will be winning support from the Republican Party at its convention later this year. Guerriero faces a tough race against millionaire James Rappaport. Both men must garner enough votes from delegates in order to be placed on the primary ballot in September.

"I have a lot of work to do to earn the votes of the people at the Republican convention and primary," conceded Guerriero.

If Republicans choose Guerriero over his opponent, and he wins the general election in November, he would become the first openly gay lieutenant governor. He also would be the most visible gay Republican elected to office in the country, representing the largest constituency as a Republican.

"This has the potential to be a huge race with major significance if we really do want to break down barriers in the Republican Party," said Brian Bond, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

In March 2001, the Victory Fund endorsed openly lesbian Massachusetts state Senator Cheryl Jacques in her bid for the post of lieutenant governor. Jacques later dropped out of the



Patrick Guerriero, left, is acting Governor Jane Swift's running mate.

race. The fund has yet to officially endorse Guerriero.

"I expect we will make a decision next month in this race since it does hold significance," said Bond. "We just need to make sure that all of his and our ducks are in a row on this."

A gay man and lesbian have held statewide offices in the past. Openly lesbian Maine state Senator Dale McCormick is the state's treasurer. But she was elected by the Legislature, not voters. Openly gay Ed Flanagan served as Vermont's state auditor, but he came out after being elected.

Massachusetts voters have broken several glass ceilings for out candidates in the past. In 1974, voters elected Elaine Noble, making her the first openly lesbian to serve in a state Legislature in the nation. And the first out members of Congress both came from the New England state, U.S. Representatives Barney Frank and Gerry Studds. Though neither was openly gay at the time of their first elections, they both were re-elected after they came out of the closet. Frank, a Democrat, continues to serve in Congress. Studds served in Congress until 1997, when he declined to seek another term.

GOP governors

While Massachusetts is historically a Democratic stronghold, state voters have elected two Republican governors in a row: William Weld and Paul Cellucci. Swift became the state's first female governor after Cellucci left office to become ambassador to Canada. Last year, Swift became the first governor in the nation to give birth while in office.

At 36 years old, she is also the

youngest U.S. governor, according to the Washington, D.C.-based National Governors Association.

"Massachusetts is a unique place in a lot of ways, particularly in politics," said Chris Ferguson, president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Massachusetts.

Ferguson said his group has been working with Swift on gay issues since she was elected lieutenant governor. He said while her stand on gay marriage has made headlines, little coverage has been given to the fact she appointed an openly gay jurist to the state appellate court and established a committee on gay youth issues.

"We met with her senior staff in April of last year and told her they needed to do something bold to energize the gay Republican base. Nothing we discussed came close to what she actually did," he said. "Not only is it bold but it is a historical move selecting the first openly gay running mate of any governor in the country. To say we are excited is an understatement."


To compete with the personal financial war chest of his opponent, Guerriero told the *B.A.R.* that he intends to make a fundraising swing through major U.S. cities later this year, with San Francisco on the list of stops.

"I am working hard to compete with him [Rappaport] and in raising money. That is the reason why I will be showing up in your neighborhood," said Guerriero. "A lot of folks out there recognize that what is more important than party affiliation is where you stand on the issues. Progressive Republicans who are fiscally conservative can help keep Massachusetts as a model around the nation on economic growth, job creation and public education." ▼

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Condom ads hit Catholic Church

by Bob Roehr

The message was simple. "Banning Condoms Kills" appeared on bus stop billboards, posters, and in newspaper ads in Washington, D.C. just in time for World AIDS Day, last December. "Catholic people care. Do our bishops?" asked another in the advertising campaign.

Catholics for a Free Choice launched the ads to raise public awareness of the devastating effect of the Catholic Church's opposition to the use of condoms for any purpose.

Frances Kissling, president of CFFC, said that their increased international involvement, particu-

larly in Africa, led them to "look at the figures and how many people are dying, how many people continue to become infected, and we couldn't help but feel that the bishops should be ashamed of themselves."

The Catholic Church says "that they treat 25 percent of the people who are HIV-positive in the world, that's about 9 million people," said Kissling, accepting the figure. "That means that there are 9 million people whose primary medical caregiver does not give them medical information about how not to spread a deadly disease. And that has got to stop."

Even at the epicenter of the plague, only six months ago the South African Catholic Bishops

Conference rejected a call for loosening the ban on use of condoms by practicing Catholics.

The statement read in part, "Widespread and indiscriminate promotion of condoms [is] an immoral and misguided weapon in our battle against HIV/AIDS. ... Condoms may even be one of the main reasons for the spread of HIV/AIDS."

That faith was contradicted by the science presented in the report "Scientific Evidence on Condom Effectiveness for Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Prevention" issued last summer by the National Institutes of Health. It concluded, "Beyond mutual lifelong monogamy among uninfected

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DADT Judge Eugene Nickerson dies

by Bob Roehr

Federal Judge Eugene Nickerson, who ruled that the anti-gay military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was unconstitutional, died on January 1 at the age of 83 from complications associated with surgery. Nickerson also presided over other controversial cases involving mobster John Gotti and the New York police assault on Abner Louima, who was anally raped with a toilet plunger.

In his 1995 opinion in *Able v. the United States*, Nickerson ruled,

"Congress may not enact discriminatory legislation because it desires to insulate heterosexual service members from statements that might excite their prejudices."

"What the court deems extraordinary is the almost total lack of concern [on the part of the Pentagon] as to the impact on unit cohesion of the attempt to enforce secrecy on homosexuals and to enlist them in the perpetuation of that hoax on heterosexuals. Common sense suggests that a policy of secrecy, indeed what might be called a policy of deception or dishonesty, will call unit cohesion into question. Hitler taught the world what

could happen when the government began to target people not for what they had done but because of their status."

That decision was vacated and sent back to Nickerson by a three-member appeals panel in 1996, in traditional deference to the military on these issues.

But Nickerson again found DADT to be unconstitutional. He called the policy "a euphemism for catering to the prejudices of heterosexuals. ... It is hard to imagine why the mere holding of hands off base and in private is dangerous to the mission of the armed forces if done by a homosexual but not if

done by a heterosexual.

"The Constitution does not grant the military special license to act on prejudices or cater to them," he wrote in rejecting the policy on both equal protection and First Amendment grounds in his July 1997 decision.

But again a three-member panel rejected Nickerson's reasoning upon appeal. In its November 1998 decision, the appeals court wrote, "In the military setting, the Supreme Court has narrowed our review ... we are required to give great deference to Congressional judgment in matters affecting the military."

It noted, "Courts have applied less stringent standards to constitutional challenges to military rules, regulations, and procedures than they have in the civilian context."

"Judge Nickerson was a passionate defender of every American," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "His courage in taking a stand against a federally mandated policy of discrimination places him on the right side of history. He will be sorely missed."

Nickerson was appointed to the federal bench by former President Jimmy Carter. ▼

Christian Coalition settles racial bias suit

by Bob Roehr

The Christian Coalition reportedly settled a racial discrimination lawsuit at the end of December with payment of \$325,000, according to a January 3 article in the conservative newspaper the *Washington Times*. Nei-

ther side may discuss the case under terms of the settlement.

In the suit filed in March 2000, 10 African Americans who were current and former employees charged that they were forced to use a separate entrance to the coalition's office in Washington, D.C. and eat in a segregated area. The office is just a few blocks from

the Capitol Building. Two white former employees offered support for the allegations.

Roberta Combs reportedly said the black employees could not use the kitchen facilities "because they are talkative and waste too much time in the kitchen." She denied the accusation.

Combs headed up coalition activ-

ities in South Carolina, and became president of the national organization in December when Pat Robertson resigned from that position.

Last March, plaintiff Samantha Henson told the *St. Petersburg Times* in Florida that Combs "became uncomfortable" when she and other black employees joined office prayer gatherings. Soon black employees stopped receiving notice of those meetings.

Other allegations included not extending health care benefits that were offered to whites, asking some employees to "spy" on others, and not inviting black employees to coalition-sponsored inauguration events in January 2000 that other employees attended.

U.S. District Judge Ricardo M. Urbina felt the case was so strong that in July he issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting the coalition from re-

talizing against the employees.

Several of the plaintiffs also went to the FBI with allegations of fraud surrounding some of the coalition's events tied to the inauguration of President Bush last January. That investigation is ongoing.

The Christian Coalition did not return phone calls placed by the *Washington Times*.

The coalition has an agreement with Agape Press whereby news reports from that religious news service are prominently displayed on the coalition's Web site. However, the Agape story on the racial discrimination settlement was conspicuous by its absence from the coalition's Web site.

The amount of the settlement was significantly less than the \$39 million in compensatory and punitive damages originally sought by the plaintiffs. ▼

Condom ads

◀ previous page

couples, condom use is the only method for reducing the risk of HIV infection and STDs available to sexually active individuals."

"Real people are dying from AIDS. Real bishops are silently acquiescent," said Kissling. "We can no longer stand by and allow the ban to go unchallenged."

"We decided to take the bishops on" over their opposition to condoms, she said. The ads in Washington were the first step in a \$250,000 international education and awareness campaign to try to stem the rising tide of AIDS. The second wave of advertising is going up now in the developing world, in Mexico, the Philippines, Kenya, South Africa, Chile, and Zimbabwe.

All are nations with a significant Catholic population, a problem with AIDS, and local organizations associated with CFFC "who can activate and organize

people who say, yeah, I want to be a part of this."

More information is available at the Web site www.condoms4life.org, where people will find ways to urge local policy makers to make condoms and education on disease prevention more widely available.

A spokesman for the Archdiocese of Washington called the ads "false and misleading." It argued that the transit system should not have allowed the ads to go up. And it put out an "advocacy alert" urging its members to contact the system expressing their displeasure.

Metro spokesman Ray Feldmann said their legal office reviewed the content and found it within their guidelines. To have vetoed the ads would have violated First Amendment rights to free speech. He said they have received about 25 e-mails and phone calls on the matter.

"It certainly has gotten the bishops angry," said Kissling. She explained that the church hierarchy

"has set themselves up as the promoters of 'the culture of life,' and everybody else who believes in sexual or reproductive freedom is 'a purveyor of the culture of death.'"

"So this is very challenging to them because we are saying that they are part of a culture of death. That their policy on condoms, whether they like it or not, contributes in some way to people dying." ▼

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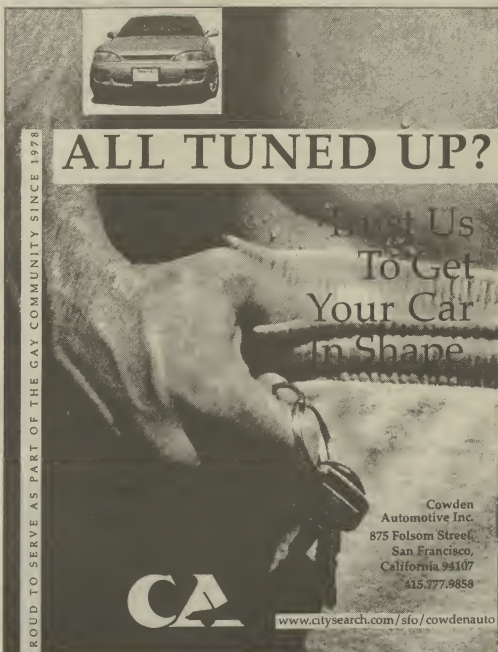
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U.S. silent on Saudi sodomy executions

by Katie Szymanski

The United States is quick to claim "humanitarian" aid while bombing in Afghanistan and "liberating" its women, but the country has done nothing to stop the human rights abuses committed by its allies, particularly when it comes to the treatment of homosexuals.

Weeks after Egypt convicted 23 men and sentenced them to hard labor for their sexual orientation, Saudi Arabia beheaded three men for sodomy on Tuesday, January 1. Ali bin Hatan bin Saad, Mohammad bin Suleiman bin Mohammad, and Mohammad bin Khalil bin Abdullah were found guilty of "engaging in the extreme obscenity and ugly acts of homosexuality, marrying among themselves and molesting the young," according to the English-language daily *the Arab News*.

Although the men were also charged with "assaulting people who told them to stop," human rights advocates have no doubt that this is a case based solely on sexual orientation and not alleged rape. They also are keenly aware of the double standard when it comes to America's alleged concern for human rights only when those rights are in its own best interest.

Saudi Arabia, a key ally in the current war in Afghanistan, is not likely to receive criticism from the United States, despite the rhetoric that human rights are an important part of driving out the Taliban regime.

"We've been pinpointing this

problem for quite some time. The United States is not taking forceful action regarding human rights violations by some of its partners," said Sydney Levy of the San Francisco-based International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "Right after the Bush administration began issuing remarks about the Taliban's mistreatment of women, we made the point that a) they forgot to mention how homosexuals are treated under the Taliban, and b) they also forgot to mention how both women and homosexuals are treated in other countries that are on our side of the bombing campaign."

To Levy and others at IGLHRC, the misuse of human rights rhetoric can only damage gay rights campaigns of the future.

"It's a great concern to us because the moment we start using human rights language in such a manner, people start hearing the language in a cynical fashion," said Levy. "So the next time they will believe the language is only being used for political gain not for a legitimate claim, as it is when we say someone should not be beheaded because of his sexual orientation."

Al-Fatihah, the U.S.-based LGBT Muslim group, this week wrote to Secretary of State Colin Powell,

urging him put pressure on American allies including Saudi Arabia "to ensure basic human rights for their citizens including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and other sexual minorities," according to an Al-Fatihah statement. The group has urged American citizens to write to their elected officials about the atrocities.

The executions were the first this year in Saudi Arabia. They were performed publicly and with a sword, according to news reports. Last year, at least 81 people were beheaded in the country for crimes ranging from drug offenses to robbery to murder.

Governing in Saudi Arabia is based on interpretation of Islamic law, with sexual relations permitted only between husbands and wives. The lesson in this case, according to advocates who have grown tired of America's uneven criticism of Islam, is that a government should not be dictated by any religion. But as the Washington, D.C.-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State notes, the Bush administration has sold this war as a religious one, and continues to imply that "one cannot be patriotic," according to American United's Robert Boston, "unless one is religious." ▼

Sticker shock

◀ page 1

with two male friends to confront him, he said he was perplexed.

When the car was originally dropped off, according to both Freed and Wallace, it was picked up a couple of days later. But on the way home, said Wallace, the car began to shake and stall, and the steering became very difficult. The car was returned to the shop "for a minor adjustment" according to Freed. Wallace left the vehicle, and according to Freed, emphasized that there was "no rush."

"I agreed to drive her Honda during off hours, and to include a freeway test, at no charge to her," said Freed.

Both parties agree that in the weeks that followed, they had several phone conversations about the

progress of the car, eventually agreeing upon a New Year's Eve pick-up date despite Freed's assertion that the car needed more test drives.

"I felt really intimidated. I felt helpless because they could do anything they wanted to the car ... I felt as though it was best to be pleasant and hope that they do the work properly," said Wallace.

"She was very polite," said Freed. "Then on Monday [December 31] she shows up with these two gentlemen that were very rude, hostile, and claimed they were her attorneys. One immediately grilled me regarding road test miles ... and suddenly I get ambushed by Ms. Wallace who never claimed any problem."

To Wallace, the retrieval of her car was a drawn out process whereby new problems with the car were discovered and reported via telephone daily. As a woman,

she said, she felt she was at an immediate disadvantage, and therefore did not express her anger until she was flanked by her two male friends on that final day.

When she and her friends (who are not attorneys) arrived for the car, it was out on another errand, said Wallace. The car returned about 15 minutes later, when Wallace and her friends calculated the high miles, then noticed a strip of electrical tape covering the rear window's rainbow sticker.

When the tape was removed, it tore the purple part of the sticker, in effect damaging Wallace's property.

Although this is Wallace's most personal gripe about the service she received, it is the one charge that Freed seems reluctant to dispute.

"The crew at Ted & Al's Service is generally occupied keeping up with an eight-car per day workload," said Freed. "Therefore, we do not get involved with 'politics' or 'window stickers'."

Wallace has filed complaints with the Better Business Bureau, AAA, and the Bureau of Automotive Repair of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. She has also contacted the city's Human Rights Commission.

HRC compliance officer Ed Illumin told the B.A.R. that his department will conduct an investigation, and that this isn't the first time a bias charge has been brought against the shop.

"After September 11 the shop had hung some sort of Osama bin Laden poster that people thought was racially insensitive," said Illumin. "So we had them take it down."

There was also a series of inves-

tigations in the early 1990s into the shop and others belonging to owner Laurence Nasey, according to the Bureau of Automotive Repair. Documents pertaining to the investigations indicate comprehensive undercover operations involving bureau agents posing as customers. During one such operation, a car was equipped with new bypass, heater, and radiator hoses, which were then dulled down with a "milky soap solution" to make them appear older than they were. The car was then brought into Ted & Al's for an oil change, where mechanics informed the agent that the heater and radiator hoses needed replacing at a cost in excess of \$180. Other investigations revealed numerous accusations of consumers receiving bills for work that was not performed.

But there is no indication that Wallace has any complaints about the work done, and Freed said she never expressed dissatisfaction until the day she retrieved the car.

"I cannot figure this out," said Freed. "I have been in the car repair business for 25 years. The only time I have witnessed such a rehearsed ambush was when a customer regretted their investment in their vehicle."

Freed said he advised Wallace not to fix her old car, and Wallace admits that against her lover's advice, she put money toward repairs of her beloved vehicle, which she affectionately calls "Margie."

But she reiterated that "I'm not arguing the work or charges. I just don't like the three weeks of running errands, or the covering up of my rainbow sticker." ▼

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NATIONAL NEWS

Marijuana Policy Project offers grants, expands staff

by Liz Highleyman

On January 3, the Marijuana Policy Project announced that it will award grants to organizations and projects seeking to change state and federal marijuana laws.

MPP, based in Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit advocacy group working to remove criminal penalties for both medical and recreational use of cannabis. Its mission is to minimize the harm associated with both the consumption of marijuana and laws against such use; MPP sees imprisonment as the greatest related harm.

Under the new program – the

first of its kind – organizations will be eligible for grants of up to \$50,000. Grants will be awarded to projects that “articulate effective tactics and strategies to regulate marijuana similarly to alcohol and to make marijuana available for medical use.”

“In the 65 years that marijuana has been prohibited in the United States, marijuana law reform efforts have always been nickel-and-dime operations,” said MPP Executive Director Robert Kampia. “This grants program is going to dramatically expand the anti-prohibition movement’s ability to fight against the government’s bad policies.”

Kampia said he expects much of the money will be targeted at

attempts to change local laws. He cited pending medical marijuana bills in Maryland, New Mexico, and Vermont, and campaigns to decriminalize all marijuana use in Massachusetts and Texas, as promising efforts now in the works.

The deadline for the first round of grant applications is January 15 and the first checks will be issued by the end of March. Deadlines for subsequent rounds are May 1 and September 1.

Eight states, including California, currently have laws that protect medical marijuana patients. Eleven states – California again among them – impose fines rather than jail sentences for possession of marijuana for personal use.

MPP, founded in 1995, will mark its seventh anniversary on January 29 with a fundraising event in Washington. In the past year, the organization has doubled the scope of its operation thanks to increased fundraising and growing national support for marijuana law reform. The group’s budget doubled from \$500,000 in 2001 to \$1 million in 2002 – making it the largest marijuana policy reform organization in the U.S. – and MPP increased its full-time staff from five to 11 people.

Among the new hires are director of state policies Billy Rogers, a former fundraising director for Texas Governor Ann Richards, and director of commu-

nications Bruce Mirken, well-known in the Bay Area as a reporter for the LGBT press; Mirken relocated from San Francisco to Washington last month to accept the position.

“In 15 years of working on AIDS issues as an activist and a journalist, I kept running into evidence that the drug war is literally killing people, from the lack of needle exchange to the federal government’s absolute intransigence on medical marijuana,” said Mirken. “I have come to believe that rethinking the war on drugs is the leading human rights issue facing the nation today.”

Kampia said he hoped MPP would be able to help “bring an end to our nation’s war on marijuana users.”

“We think we can do this by 2010, given the progress that has been made in the five short years since California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 215,” he added.

Proposition 215, passed in November 1996, was the country’s first successful medical marijuana ballot initiative. ▼

NGLTF journalism scholarship deadline approaching

by Katie Szymanski

Who couldn’t use a little extra money, particularly a person who is queer, young, and wants to change the way the world is represented? Qualified students have just a few weeks to apply for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s Messenger-Anderson Scholarship, a program that will award four \$5,000 scholarships to LGBT high school seniors or college undergraduates pursuing a degree in journalism. The scholarship application deadline is February 1.

Larry Messenger and Jim Anderson established the NGLTF Messenger-Anderson Scholarship in memory of Lawrence and Selina Messenger. According to the scholarship’s summary statement, the Messengers believed that there is a pressing need to encourage gay and lesbian people to become more involved in shaping media

coverage. The scholarship in their name is one of the “most wealthy GLBT-specific scholarships in the country,” said NGLTF’s Betsy Gressler.

“We’re really lucky to have this money. There have been eight recipients so far and they’ve all been wonderful. We’re really proud to be able to offer these scholarships to exceptional individuals.”

The scholarship competition is open to undergraduate college students and to graduating high school seniors planning to study journalism at a four-year institution. In instances where a school does not offer such a degree, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are pursuing a career in either journalism or communications advocacy.

Each of the four Messenger-Anderson scholarships will provide \$5,000 the first year, and \$2,500 over the next two years for a possible total award of \$10,000. Winners are required to partici-

pate in a paid summer internship at the NGLTF office in Washington, DC.

Winners are chosen by an independent panel of professional broadcast, print, Internet, and activist journalists. Winners will be announced in the spring, and the

awards will be distributed in August.

Applications for the scholarship can be downloaded at <http://www.nglftf.org/about/messenger.htm>. For questions about the scholarship, send an e-mail message to mcruez@nglftf.org. ▼

For information about applying for a grant, contact MPP grants manager Chad Thevenot at (202) 462-5747, ext. 104 or chad@mpp.org. More details are available online at www.mpp.org/grants/index.html.

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Confidentiality and HIV/AIDS

Is your privacy protected?

by Ramon M. Gonzalez,
Client Advocate

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Dear AIDS Legal Referral Panel:
I was recently diagnosed with HIV. My doctor requested I tell my partner but I'm not ready. I figure as long as I keep practicing safe sex with him, I can take my time to tell him. Now my doctor is threatening to personally tell him about my condition! Is she allowed to do this?
Sincerely,
Reluctant in San Francisco

Believe it or not, she can. Under California law, your doctor can tell your partner about your

HIV status and will not be found criminally or civilly liable. Some states even make such disclosure mandatory. Here's how it works in California: Any doctor that has the results of a confirmed HIV or AIDS test of a patient under her care can disclose that information to anyone she reasonably believes to be the patient's sexual partner (or a person with whom the patient shares needles). The doctor can even disclose the information to the county health officer.

Sounds scary, right? But it's not as simple as it sounds. The doctor has to take some other steps first. Your doctor first has to discuss the results of your test with you and offer appropriate educational and psychological counseling. Your doctor must try to convince you to tell your partner yourself, and may only disclose to your partner if you refuse to tell him. Your doctor also has to try to first obtain your consent before she notifies your partner. Remember, she only needs to try to get your consent; she doesn't actually need it.

Next, your doctor needs to tell you of her intention to notify your partner. In your case, it sounds like she did just that. Still not feeling better about this? Maybe this will help: When your doctor contacts your partner, she can only tell him something like, "We have reason to believe you may have been exposed to HIV and we'd like you to come in for testing." Your doctor cannot identify you as the source of exposure or give any type of information, medical or otherwise, which might identify you. She can't even identify who the treating physician is.

Finally, your doctor must then refer your partner for appropriate care, counseling, and follow-up. "This can't be!," you moan, "don't I have the right to confidentiality? What about that doctor-patient thing? I watch that ER show all the time! And by the way, they should really get George Clooney back on."

Yes, it's true, you do have many rights to confidentiality regarding your HIV status but in your situation, public policy concerns for health and safety are also considered. On a side note, it's always a good idea to tell your sexual partners about your HIV status. If you don't, you could be found civilly liable for exposing them to HIV (even if you didn't actually infect them) and be ordered to pay monetary damages.

Dear AIDS Legal Referral Panel:

I have an AIDS diagnosis and might need to take some time off from work each week to see my doctor. Do I have to tell my boss about my HIV status? He's not the most sympathetic person and I would prefer not to tell him.

Yours truly,
Hoping to Win the Lotto



ALRP Law

Fortunately you're in luck. In your situation, you have a right to confidentiality regarding your health status. Federal, state, and local laws entitle employees with disabilities (which includes someone with symptomatic HIV or AIDS) to take a reasonable amount of time off from work for medical reasons. And your employer must make reasonable accommodations for you to do so.

Here's how it works: Get your doctor to write a letter to your human resources department (or directly to your boss if you don't have one). Your doctor will explain that you have a disability but won't state exactly what it is. (In fact, the law prevents him from doing so without your consent.) He'll state that you need "reasonable accommodations" and will explain exactly what they should be; for example: "Mr. Lotto needs to leave work two hours early every Friday for doctor appointments."

If your boss refuses to make these accommodations, he can find himself in serious legal trouble. If your boss insists on knowing the nature of your disability, the law protects you from having to reveal it. Don't hesitate to give us a call if this happens.

Dear AIDS Legal Referral Panel:
One of my co-workers somehow found out that I am HIV-positive and has been shooting his mouth off about it to everyone in the office. My boss found out about it and has been telling people I have AIDS. Is there anything that can be done?
Your pal,
Hopping Mad

There's not much you can do about your co-worker who doesn't have a duty of confidentiality toward you. Also, in your situation, truth would be a defense to defamation so it would be tough to sue the person for this.

But your boss is another story. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, he is required to maintain the confidentiality of your medical condition. In addition, he can be found liable in civil court for defamation for falsely telling people you have AIDS (because you are merely HIV-positive). In addition, if he were to send an e-mail out (or other published form) about this, he can also be found liable for slander and for violating your right to privacy by disseminating this information in this manner.

But even if you don't end up suing, you can still get assistance by calling ALRP. We may be able to write a "cease and desist" letter, informing the offending party of their illegal behavior.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This article is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Do you have any legal questions? Call ALRP at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 205 13th Street, Suite 2170, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461. For specific questions regarding housing call (415) 701-1200, ext. 314. To find out more about ALRP visit the Web site at www.alrp.org.

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*Placebo looks the same as a drug but has no active ingredient in it.

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There are other restrictions, please call for more information.
Contact Mary Payne, RN, at 514-0550, ext 356
Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at UCSF.

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HIV-positive dental hygienist's firing upheld

by Liz Highleyman

In late December, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta unanimously upheld a previous district court ruling that allowed the firing of a dental hygienist with HIV.

In 1999, Spencer Waddell sued his former employer, Atlanta-based Valley Forge Dental Associates, after his employment was terminated when he tested positive for HIV in 1997. Waddell charged the group with violating the Americans with Disabilities Act; he rejected reassignment from his hygienist job to a clerical position that paid half his original salary. District Court Judge Charles Pannell last year dismissed Waddell's lawsuit.

Judge Stanley Birch, one of the judges on the panel that upheld Pannell's ruling, stated that HIV transmission "theoretically could happen, even though such an event never before has occurred,"

and concluded that Waddell was "a direct threat to his work place."

Expert witnesses testified that the risk of transmission through dental procedures was extremely low. The only known apparent transmission of HIV in a dental setting involved Florida dentist David Acer who may have infected six patients, including Kimberly Bergalis, in the late 1980s; it remains uncertain how – or even if – HIV transmission occurred in those cases, but faulty infection control procedures were implicated.

"Spencer is a highly qualified hygienist who is diligent about using gloves, barriers, and other precautions," said Waddell's attorney, Stephen Scarborough of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Because of that diligence and because of his skill, as well as the general difficulty of transmitting HIV in the dental office, it's clear that he can practice safely." Scarborough said Waddell is considering a Supreme Court appeal. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Jeff Bauhs



The extraordinary life of Jeff began on June 26, 1968 and was abruptly cut short on January 06, 2002 when he was struck with spinal meningitis. Jeff was a graduate of UNIV in engineering and later mastered in psychology at the University of New Mexico. His journey through life led him to San Francisco where he met and fell in love with his partner Jeremy Sloan. Jeff's passion for life was driven strongly by his love for learning, and the constant encouragement and support he received from the close-knit family of friends who knew

and loved him. He will be remembered forever through his wisdom, wit and teachings.

Jeff is survived by his life partner Jeremy Sloan, his father Ken, mother Lavi-la, sister Ellen, and dog Bo. He also leaves behind a close-knit circle of friends that are his family here in the city who already miss him dearly.

Family and friends of Jeff are invited to share memories and their love during services that will be held on Friday, January 11, 2002 at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 1668 Bush Street, at 3 p.m.

Rebecca LePere



Rebecca LePere, 51, dedicated LGBT and AIDS activist, died January 4 in Oakland, after a valiant four-and-a-half-year battle with breast cancer.

LePere was a tireless organizer who believed in putting words into action and epitomized Harvey Milk's idea, "You've got to give them hope." She worked with Bay Area nonprofits including The NAMES Project Quilt, the 1993 March on Washington Committee, WORLD: Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Disease, Eden Housing, Under One Roof, the Destination Foundation and her East Bay Cancer Support Group, "The Posse."

As a founding member of the political action group Queer and Present Danger, LePere organized protests and activities that brought attention to the AIDS epidemic and encouraged policy changes. She was part of the first civil disobedience staged by health care patient rights activists at the FDA, which resulted in the fast-tracking of AIDS drugs. More recently, she presented tes-

timony to pharmaceutical companies on the advantages of importing cancer drugs that are unavailable in the US.

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, LePere moved to the Bay Area in 1977. She is survived by her mother, Helen Schiopen and her significant other of 20 years, Leslie Ewing. Contributions in LePere's memory can be made to the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund (a project of the AIDS Emergency Fund).

Loren Henderson



Loren Roy Henderson, 64, born October 21, 1937 and passed away on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, California.

He will be missed by fellow members of the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, which he joined in August of 1985. He was an active member of the percussion section, played bass drum in parades and for community events, and filled the office of Uniform Coordinator for many years. He was also an avid rail fan and shared that love with others in the SF gay community, even volunteering during daily runs of the MUNI Market Street historic streetcars.

He leaves behind his second cousin, Margaret Wallace of Santa Clara, California.

He will be cremated and laid to rest near his mother's grave in Rose Hill Cemetery, Whittier, California. No services have been planned.

Those wishing to make a donation in his honor can send their contributions to the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, care of The Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94119.

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AHP offers free training

by Matthew S. Bajko

To help it combat the spread of HIV among the city's gay and bisexual men, the AIDS Health Project at the University of California, San Francisco is looking for volunteers to become HIV prevention group facilitators. At the end of January, AHP is offering a free weekend training on group facilitation skills for new recruits.

The weekend training focuses on the fundamentals of support group facilitation, including enhancing listening skills and helping to create an emotionally "safe" environment. After completing

the training, the facilitators will then apply their skills to 12-week support groups or monthly workshops in REACH – Risk Evaluation and Counseling for Health – prevention groups.

REACH runs groups specifically for people who are HIV-negative or untested, as well as programs for people regardless of their HIV status. Topics addressed in the REACH peer-facilitated groups include connecting with others, talking about HIV risks, and building relationships.

"The issues that are addressed in our support groups enable group participants to stay focused on their health and well-being.

Support and information sharing makes a real difference and these groups are a key part of our HIV prevention efforts," said Michael Discepolo, coordinator of the REACH program.

In addition to the training, volunteers must commit to 10-12 hours a month. A general sensitivity to HIV-related issues is required; group experience is helpful but not necessary. The training is scheduled for January 25-27.

For a training application, or to learn about the upcoming sessions, AHP prevention programs, or facilitating groups for people with HIV, contact John Tighe at (415) 502-7579. ▼

Most Holy Redeemer turns 100

by Joe Dignan

Exactly a century ago this coming Saturday, January 12, Archbishop Patrick Riordan stood in the sanctuary of a brand new church at 114 Diamond Street in the Castro and dedicated it as Most Holy Redeemer. This Sunday, January 13, the parish will celebrate with a Mass at 10 a.m. offered by Bishop John Wester, the auxiliary bishop of San Francisco, and a reception afterwards in the parish hall. The community is invited.

"It's the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the building," said Michael Vargas, the church's administrative assistant. "The building and the parish have survived three major earthquakes, a couple of world wars, and a horrible epidemic. We're looking forward to being here as a place of refuge for people in the neighborhood for another hundred years."

As the area around it evolved from sleepy working-class Eureka Valley into the gay mecca now known around the world as the

Castro, the church changed too.

"We're probably 75-80 percent gay and lesbian," said parishioner David Differding. "We're putting up banners for the centennial that say 'An inclusive Catholic community.'"

With the coming of the AIDS epidemic, the parish's neighborhood services also evolved. Its school closed in 1979, and the parish converted its convent into a hospice mainly serving people with AIDS.

"With the spread of AIDS," said pastor Father Zachary Shore, "both [then-pastor] Father McGuire and Sister Clea Herold, PBVM, who was the pastoral associate, along with a number of parishioners said, 'What could the parish do for those young men that were dying of AIDS, among them the parishioners?' And they started the Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group around 1985."

The AIDS support group now has a full-time staff and provides help for people with HIV/AIDS. "They provide practical support for people who are suffering: rides to the doctor, picking up prescrip-

tions, maybe just a few hours of companionship," said Differding.

Parishioners have also organized a Wednesday night supper program during the winter for homeless youth in the neighborhood.

The church, and its parishioners, have struggled with its relationship to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. According to San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, when the congregation discovered that its contributions were being used by the archdiocese to fund support for California's Proposition 22, the Knight initiative, church members demanded their money back.

Proposition 22 was on the March 2000 ballot and declared that "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." It was approved by voters.

"What we emphasize is that God's unconditional love is offered to all people regardless of their sexual orientation," said Vargas. "It's a unique parish. There's no place like it in the world. We want to make this a welcoming and safe place for people to be." ▼

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Feel the burn

by Jim Provenzano

Congratulations to Douglas James Rich of Seattle, Washington, who was the 2002nd male registrant at Gay Games VI. Courtesy of the event's official airline Qantas, Rich has won economy class airfare, flying from Los Angeles to attend Sydney 2002 Gay Games VI, Sport & Cultural Festival in October and November 2002.

The 2002nd female registrant has yet to register. To all women intending on participating at Sydney 2002 Gay Games VI — they have yet to attain the 2002nd female registrant. Almost 7,000 people have registered for the quadrennial sports event, which may be hampered by the recent large-scale brush fires surrounding Sydney.

Until then, if your New Year's resolutions included getting out and about in a sporty way, here's a

bunch of options. Unlike a certain other GLBT publication which encourages readers to "get ready for Gay Games V in Amsterdam," we here at Sports Complex like to update our sports listings at least once every four years. Send updates, corrections, etc., to jimprov@hotmail.com.

Running

SF Frontrunners

This social running and walking club hosts weekly events at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park. Enjoy post-run brunches. Tuesday evening runs trek along the Embarcadero. Info: (415) 978-2429 or (415) 668-3771.

East Bay Frontrunners

Usually morning events, in scenic spots around Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, and other cities. Info: Gayle (510) 625-0908

or Robert at (510) 531-0512.

SF Track and Field

Forming 2002 team for Sydney, they also welcome all levels of skill and ability. Practices are held weekly (Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6 p.m., and Sunday mornings 10) at Kezar Stadium on the southeast side of Golden Gate Park. Info: (415) 550-7966.

Bay Area Distance Runners

BADR is the marathon training and running group with over 150 members. They host one 1/2 marathon a year, the BADR 1/2 Marathon on Mother's Day, four marathons a year, and serve as training for Gay Games marathoners. The group usually meets early every other Sunday morning in San Francisco. For info, call Dave at (415) 626-1380.



Sports Complex

Cycling

Different Spokes/SF

On road and off road adventures in cycling for this GLBT-inclusive group. Weekly rides and social events among its 300-plus membership. Write P.O. Box 14711 San Francisco, CA 94114, call (415) 282 1647, or visit www.dssf.org.

Cycling & hiking

Marin Hike & Bike Club

On foot or on a Schwinn, this group throws parties, events, and sports treks of all sorts through lovely Marin County. Info: (415) 457-1115, ext. 230.

Just hiking

San Francisco Hiking Club

Most weekends throughout the year, this hardy group of outdoorsfolk venture forth outwardly through SUV Land to the peaks and valleys of our land. Info: (415) 487-6410.

Gay/Lesbian Sierrans

Dozens of hikes a month, including day hikes and overnight trips, bike rides, and conservation work parties, so you can dig in with your fellow environmentalists. Info: (415) 281-5666, or (408) 450-0402. www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/gls/

Just hiking w/ wimmin

Wilderness Women

Kayak and ski or just relax on a bike or hike with sisters in outdoors spirit. Monthly newsletter, all welcome. Info: (925) 283-0485.

Hiking for a cause

Healing Waters

Nonprofit group that offers adventure hikes, rafting, cross-country skiing, and backpacking trips. Your ticket pays for PWAs to go on similar trips. Info: (415) 296-6179.

Martial arts

Triangle TaeKwon Do Club

Safe environment in which to learn how to whack people with a single chop? No, actually, a deft form of self-defense Mondays and Fridays from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Eureka Valley Recreation Center. Info: Ken Craig (415) 567-8866 or e-mail tkdc@aol.com.

For info on the Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists, contact Allen Wood at jimallen@backinsf.com or (415) 563-1655 (call after 5 p.m.) or write IAGLMA, P.O. Box 590601, San Francisco, CA 94159.



Sky's the limit: GLBT sports groups get around.

Golden Gate Dragons

Experienced martial artists are welcome to bring their equipment for monthly practice sessions. First Saturday of the month, 1-2:30 p.m., Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th.

Golden Gate Wrestling

Official USA Wrestling freestyle club, the real thing, none of that pro stuff, except for special occasions. Tuesdays and Fridays 7-9 p.m. and Sundays 2-4 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th. Info: (415) 821-2991, or visit www.ggwc.org.

Small craft

Windsurfers

GLBT-inclusive group for windsurfers and their wannabe pals. Yeah, sure, you know how. Go and learn. Info: (510) 548-9009.

SF Bay Blades Rowing Club

GL club for all levels. Beginner classes, advanced runs, some competition. Weekly practices at Lake Merritt. Casual row and brunch first Sunday of each month. Info for the women's club: Debra (415) 584-1257. Men's team: Jeff at (415) 221-5046.

Team SF Sailing

Group forming for participation in the 2002 Sydney sailing exhibition competition. Kip Darcey at (415) 621-1728 or Katherine Holland at (415) 665-8572.

San Francisco Windsurfing

Like a surfboard with an environmentally-correct motor, windsurfing is best enjoyed during those rare breezy days. Info: www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Rapids/1569/wind.html.

Barbary Coast Boating

Group for owners and enthusiasts of sailboats, yachts, powerboats, kayaks, or just people who like the boat chase scenes in *Gator*. Monthly meetings. (415) 905-6267.

Swimming

Lavender Lanes Swimming

Outdoor pool swimming for gay guys in Marin on College of Marin, Kentfield campus. After swimming, take in lunch at the Woodlands Market or nearby nature preserve. \$3 donation gets you there from San Francisco. Info: (415) 749-1568.

SF Tsunami Swim Club

Provides coached, 90-minute workouts for adults swimmers of all ages and levels. Monday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings with a fabulous brunch afterward. It's all about carbs. Tsunami Wetline (415) 487-6614, or visit www.sftsunami.org.

Water polo

SF Water Polo is one of the newest teams to form last year. They made quite a splash at 2001's Tsunami meet. Visit them at www.sftsunami.org/polo/

Diving

Northern California Rainbow Divers

Scuba diving club for the

GLBT community and their pals.

Enjoy singing "Under the Sea" more than normal? Suit up, and enjoy the sea life. When not diving, the club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 152 Church Street (415) 522-2348.

San Francisco Triathletes

These athletic achievers conquer all terrain and participate in regional triathlons as well as Gay Games events. Web: www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Loge/9809/index.html

Basketball

Games every Sunday for a league with limited admission, due to popularity. Non-competitive 5-7 p.m. every Sunday. Competitive from 6-8 p.m. at Eureka Valley Rec. Center, 100 Collingwood at 18th. Info: Tony (415) 621-2710 or online at www.gay-basketball.com.

Skiing

Gay Ski Week

The event in Aspen is coming up at the end of this month, but if you're interested, you probably know all about that. Besides, any event that can afford tie-ins on *Queer As Folk* doesn't need my promotional help.

SAGA North Ski & Snowboard Club

Take out-of-state treks to resorts for skiing and snowboarding, including Tahoe, Banff, and Aspen. All abilities welcome. Learn-to-ski packages available. Info: (415) 995-2772, or visit www.saganorth.com.

Hockey

San Francisco Ice Hockey (Quakes)

This diverse group of hockey players went to Gay Games V and is recruiting for new players. Visit the site at <http://members.aol.com/SFQuakes/index.html>.

Football

Women's Flag Football

Huddle up with your local and only Women's Flag Football league in the Bay Area! For more info about the league, go to www.sfwfl.com/ or contact Commissioner Judea Eden at (415) 401-0197.

Men's Flag Football

Every Saturday at 10 a.m. grab a flag off a ... fellow in this rough yet friendly scrimmage. Social events too. Info: Darryl (415) 441-7760. East Bay, Jeff (510) 893-0744. DGreg64@aol.com.

Men's Rugby

Those interested in getting more information can do so via e-mail (info@sffog.org), or by registering on the Fog Rugby list serve (www.egroups.com/group/SFFog), or by visiting the Web site at www.sffog.org. You can read a very lengthy article about former member Mark Bingham in the current *Advocate* magazine.

next page ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Supreme Court may hear Texas death penalty case

by Katie Szymanski

The United States Supreme Court is expected to announce soon whether it will hear the now-infamous "sleeping lawyer" case that put a gay Texas man on death row, a sentence that was eventually overturned.

Calvin Burdine, now 48, was convicted for the 1983 stabbing murder of his lover W.T. Wise of Houston. Another suspect provided testimony against Burdine in exchange for a lesser sentence. Burdine's original attorney slept

through most of the murder trial, including portions where Burdine's sexuality was used as a reason to apply the death penalty over prison, where he would presumably enjoy himself, prosecutors said.

The case was contested for years until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit finally agreed last August that Burdine was denied his right to a fair trial. That ruling overturned a three-judge panel decision to uphold the conviction, and granted Burdine a new trial. The state of Texas has appealed to the highest court, claiming that Burdine's "repeated-

ly unconscious" lawyer had no effect on the murder trial's outcome.

Texas argued in its filing to the Supreme Court that Burdine's lawyer should be treated like lawyers who are drunk or mentally ill, conditions in which the burden rests on defendants to prove that their lawyer's behavior affected the verdict.

"The decision in Burdine illogically segregates attorney-sleeping from other impairments that have indistinguishable effects on an attorney's ability to function during trial," according to the state in its petition for Supreme Court review.

The previous Fifth Circuit ruling said that while drunk or mentally ill lawyers at least have the ability to make impaired judgments, sleeping lawyers cannot exercise any judgment whatsoever. Burdine's current attorney argued that the original lawyer did indeed sleep through critical portions of his trial. He has since died.

The Supreme Court was expected to make a decision on Friday, January 4, and announce that decision sometime this week. As the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press, there were no updates on the pending announcement. ▼

Mission police

◀ page 1

his leg.

Regarding allegations that he led police sweeps in the Polk Street area in the 1980s when Dianne Feinstein was mayor, Corrales said he believes the issue is one of semantics, and declined to call the operations a sweep.

"The word 'sweep' has a negative connotation," he said. "Almost 20 years ago, Con Murphy [former police chief] gave me a mandate to deal with drug sales in the Polk Street area. We made a lot of individual arrests, but not one made a citizen complaint. It was just later that people made an issue of it."

Suhr said concerns about Polk Street "are ancient history."

Asked about medical marijuana, Corrales said, "I believe it's city policy to honor the city ID cards." He was referring to Department of Public Health-issued photo ID cards that medical marijuana users can obtain.

But only time will allay the fears of those in the medical marijuana movement who are not trustful of Corrales and his past actions.

"I already called four supervisors just to make sure they are

aware of this. Maybe nothing can be done but we need some supervision there," said Wayne Justmann, executive director of the San Francisco Patient's Resource Center.

Justmann said worried clients of his had informed him about Corrales's new position. A friend of Peron's who worked with him at the cannabis club, Justmann is also the principal author of a resolution recently adopted by the Board of Supervisors and signed by Mayor Willie Brown making the city a "sanctuary" for medical marijuana.

"While my facility is not within his district, certainly our patients, friends, and colleagues frequent the Castro and Mission area that he will be setting policy for. There has to be a red flag thrown up here. What are we in for?" asked Justmann.

Corrales reportedly was suspended in 1982 for firing his gun after leaving a bar outside the Hall of Justice and that does not paint a pleasant picture for those worried about him overseeing the Mission Station. Nor does his crashing his patrol car after he made a U-turn on the Golden Gate Bridge, as was also reported several years ago.

In a profile of Corrales in the *San Francisco Examiner* after the raid in 1996, the paper reported

that Corrales accumulated 110 citizen complaints in the 1970s and 1980s, and was also the target of 10 separate lawsuits alleging abuse. The city paid \$100,000 to settle four of them, according to the paper.

Gay Police Commissioner Wayne Friday, who writes the *Bay Area Reporter's* political column, said he had no comment on Corrales being named to run Mission Station.

In 1993, Corrales was promoted to lead the narcotics unit and initiated a two-year probe into Peron's pot club. After both the city's district attorney and federal government declined to prosecute, Corrales turned his evidence over to the state's Bureau of Narcotics and Dan Lungren, then the state attorney general.

Not only did the public, but elected city officials also reacted negatively to the raid. Ammiano referred to Lungren's work as "storm-trooper tactics."

Shortly after the raid, the captain, once praised for his investigative skills, was transferred to the Ingleside station, dubbed outer Siberia by police. After that assignment, Corrales worked as the night captain downtown.

"People need to give him an opportunity to explain his past. We should afford him his opportunity and go from there," said Officer Jane Warner, of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which provides private security services in the Castro.

On Monday, several lesbian and gay officers that work out of Mission Station were on hand to meet Corrales.

"I've worked here five years and I know he'll do good things for the district as well as the gay community," said Officer T. Ewing.

Added Officer Tony Montoya, who's been on the force 14 years, "I'm excited he's coming here, he'll bring some positive changes to the station."

After meeting with Corrales Tuesday afternoon, Ammiano said he will take a "wait and see" approach as to how Corrales conducts himself as captain of Mission Station. Although Suhr, who won praise from the gay community as captain, supports Corrales, Ammiano said he is not pleased

with the decision to put him at Mission Station.

"He said that behavior is behind him and he really wants to do good. We got this commitment, and if it doesn't happen in the way he has promised then we are going to ask for his removal," Ammiano said. "I really question how this happened in the first place. No one got a heads up."

As for Corrales's recent relocation, Police Chief Fred Lau wants station captains to develop experience in residential and downtown stations, according to Suhr.

Corrales said he doesn't envision any immediate changes at Mission Station. He said he needs to learn what's going on, and pointed out that the station's previous captains, Roth and Suhr, did a good job. Corrales said he will treat residents served by the station — primarily those in the Mission and Castro districts — with respect.

"I think residents of every community will find concerns brought to my attention dealt with diligently and professionally," he said. "I think they'll be pleasantly surprised by the quality of police work."

On Monday January 7, his first day as captain, Corrales (with Suhr) visited various community leaders to introduce himself. After meeting with Patrick Batt, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, he agreed to meet with the merchant group at its February meeting. Corrales also accepted Batt's offer to walk the new captain around the neighborhood.

While Batt said he was surprised to see Roth transferred, he said he has no preconceived notions about Corrales.

"I am willing to give the guy a chance," said Batt. "I said to him I wanted to make sure we keep two beat officers up here. I am assuming we could work together." ▼

The Mission Station hosts a community meeting on the last Tuesday of every month, starting at 6 p.m. at the station, 630 Valencia Street. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29 and Corrales is expected to attend.

FBI search

◀ page 1

floating in coastal inlets in the Newport, Oregon area.

Police recovered a stolen Dodge Durango on Sunday, January 6, in the short term parking garage at San Francisco International Airport. An airport parking stub found in the car was dated December 26. Receipts in the car showed that he purchased items from nearby stores after December 26, indicating that he may have been living out of the mini-

The FBI believes Longo stayed in a San Francisco hostel for at least two nights just before Christmas. He had set up a job interview at the Starbucks on Union Street in San Francisco for December 28 but never showed up.

Longo is about 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighs between 150-190 pounds. He has bluish-green eyes and reddish-blond hair. Authorities have advised that Longo is a diabetic and may visit a pharmacy, hospital, or clinic seeking insulin. Evidence found in the Durango shows that Longo was using the aliases Jason Joseph Fortner and John Thomas Christopher. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253494

The following person(s) are doing business as: Calvin Lau Designs, 2673 Pine Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Calvin Lau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 11, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/11/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253542

The following person(s) are doing business as: Home, 2100 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Hurley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/12/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253551

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Pleasure Project, 3435 Cesar Chavez Street, Suite #226, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Edwin Eugene Groff. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/13/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253521

The following person(s) are doing business as: Garden Of Tranquility, 2001 17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Luo, Guo Wei. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/12/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253525

The following person(s) are doing business as: Soma Motors, 1601 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Randy Hoffman, Soma Motors LLC, owner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 12, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/12/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253607

The following person(s) are doing business as: Steve Kay and Jerry, Mr. LIM0, Executive Town Car Service, 2075 Green Street, #35, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Steve Kay. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/11/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253583

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mission Creek Printing, 298 Alabama Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kenneth E. Neal. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 14, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/14/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253616

The following person(s) are doing business as: Liquid Fire Productions, 135 Eureka Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Veronica C. Combs. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/17/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253177

The following person(s) are doing business as: Maxfield, 398 Dolores Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed David Peterson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/26/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

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Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Soccer

SP Spikes, the gay men's soccer team, meets Tuesdays and Saturdays, and competes in Marin league games as well as the International Gay & Lesbian Football Association World Cup. They do pretty well each year, too. Info: (415) 861-5271. Ask for Bob.

Bowling

Thanks to the evil, draconian greed of certain aspects of our municipal government, you can no longer bowl in San Francisco proper at Japantown Bowl. You can, however, join Out and About Bowling League. They meet each Monday at Cloverleaf Bowl in Fremont. All skill levels welcome, including San Franciscan refugees. Ingo (925) 709-5737.

A League Of Our Own

ALOOO is not a duck call, but a group of lesbian bowlers who meet at Albany Bowl each Sunday at 6 p.m. Info: Mykie (510) 526-5671 or Christen (510) 235-3727.

Tennis

Serving up gay and lesbian lobs for years, this group hosts annual competitions and regular practices. Web: www.slip.net/~gltf/index.html.

Bodybuilding

Discussion and tip-sharing group on the art/sport of bodybuilding. Info: (415) 550-8609.

Volleyball

Sunday, noon - 4 p.m.. Spike it, Miss Thing, 18th & DeHaro schoolyard. Jay (415) 864-0257.

Softball

San Francisco Softball

This is one of the oldest traditions in the Bay Area's sports inclusivity. Find a team near you at www.SFGSL.org. Visit www.naaag.com to find out about the Bay World Series in 2002.

Oakland Gay Softball

Summer and fall season teams always forming. Games are played on Saturdays. All levels encouraged. Info: John or Ken at (510) 835-8012.

East Bay Lesbian & Gay Softball

Join this Tuesday night Fremont-based league for games and practices on a co-ed, recreational team. Info: Mark at (925) 709-5737.

East Bay Softball

Even though some home runs end up in the Bay's waters, they don't make it all the way to Piedmont. Never fear, East Bay Softball has a mound or plate for you. <http://members.aol.com/EBLGS/COMM/index.html>.

Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee

Flip and fly like your pet dog as you snap a catch on this weekly gathering of Frisbee enthusiasts. Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park. Info: Jeff (415) 648-6854, or visit www.evite.com/jharis@itsa.ucsf.edu/frisbee. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Sheriff's Department is offering you a rewarding career as a Deputy Sheriff. We are currently accepting applications on a continuous basis. Applicants must be at least 20 years old, a high school or GED graduate, a U.S. citizen, have one year of college or work experience, and possess a valid California driver's license. To apply contact the recruitment office at (415) 554-7000, email recruitment_sheriff@ci.ca.us, or visit our website <http://www.sfsheriff.com>. As an equal opportunity employer, we especially encourage women, minorities and bilingual candidates to apply. **BUILDING INSPECTION** Come participate in the Brown Bag Lunch Talks at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 P.M. The department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. There will be 15 minutes of general discussion and questions before each topic. Bring your lunch, coffee and other drinks will be provided. January 17, 2002: How to Get a Permit. What DBI staff Expect from Customers and What Customers Can Expect from DBI.

NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials handed out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at 558-6205 for further information. **SAN FRANCISCO CITY HALL DOCENT TOUR PROGRAM** Volunteer to be a City Hall Docent. Orientation/Training Sessions Beginning Thursday, January 10th, 2002.

Scheduled Meeting Times: Every Thursday (beginning January 10) for the month of January 2002, 11:00 AM - or - 6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 12 (Ground Floor)

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 12, San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-554-5780 415-554-6023 (docent hotline), 415-554-7428 (fax), www.ci.ca.us/cityhall (website), jeannie.taula@sf.gov (email)

THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC

City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive sexually transmitted disease diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets, and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

ANIMAL CRUELTY IS A CRIME

San Francisco Animal Care and Control is responsible for the enforcement of all state and local animal control and welfare laws. If you see an animal being abused or neglected, or witness illegal activity involving animals, please call us at 554-9400 immediately.

CALIFORNIA PALACE OF THE LEGION OF HONOR

The Legion of Honor is now free to the public every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Ford Free Tuesdays. The Legion is no longer free to the public on the second Wednesday of the month.

For a current schedule of exhibitions, you may visit our 24 hour information Hot Line, (415) 863-3330 and our web site address, www.thinker.org

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253647

The following person(s) are doing business as: NVI Investments, 1215 Filbert Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general corporation, signed John Henry Kouba, NVI Investments. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 2, 1983. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/18/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 211827

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Estrella Janitorial. Located at: 2609 Turk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: February 26, 1997. This business was conducted by: an Individual: Rene L. McLean

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253218

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flippers Gourmet Burgers, 482-A Hayes Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Salameh Naser and Ramzi Faraj. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 8, 1997. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/28/2001.

DEC. 20, 27, JAN 3, 10, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253725

The following person(s) are doing business as: KAM Physical Therapy And Doula Services, 447 42nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Anne Marie Kelly Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/19/01.

DEC. 27, JAN 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253686

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sunshine Express, 604 Ellis Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Tran, Jung T. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/19/01.

DEC. 27, JAN 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253474

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dolls For The Soul, 73 Waller Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nina Reimer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/10/2001.

JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253599

The following person(s) are doing business as: ChefMaker, 568 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Dolores Silva VP Fin & Admin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/17/2001.

JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253810

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wa Yip Trading Company, 731 26th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kwok P. Zung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/28/2001.

JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO. 253782

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gourmet Bay Cafe, 101-A Utah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Supannee Veradejkanhaend. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/27/2001.

JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0203495-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Gourmet Bay Cafe. Located at: 101-A Utah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 02, 1996. This business was conducted by: a Individual: Apinan Veradejkanhaend

JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540096

In the Matter of the Application of Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor) for change of Name. The application of Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor), for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor) has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Cheryl Anna Rowe. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of February at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

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Please submit resume to:

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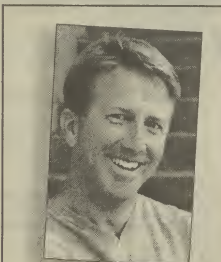
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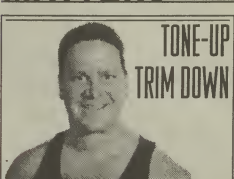
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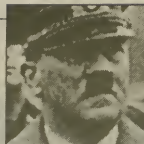
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Opera on the home front
Puccini's 'La Boheme,' Weill's 'Street Scene,' Verdi's 'Falstaff,' all out on DVD.
page 32

Heil homo?
'The Hidden Hitler' claims der Fuhrer was homosexual.
page 31



Stump for a baby
Animated 'Little Otik' is based on Czech fairy tale.
page 29



BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 32 • No. 2 • 10 January 2002

From Germany, Austria and Switzerland with love

Annual 'Berlin & Beyond' film festival opens at the Castro Theatre

by Gary Morris

So much of American culture, but particularly the movies, has been shaped over the decades by Germanic influences that it's important to pay attention to what's happening filmwise in *der Mutterland*. San Francisco's annual *Berlin & Beyond* festival, presented by the Goethe-Institut at the Castro Theatre January 10-16, shows that despite heavy inroads by US films, there's still worthy regional cinema being made in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, the three countries represented in this year's 20-odd features and documentaries.

The earliest entry is a revival of G.W. Pabst's 1929 silent *Diary of a Lost Girl*, with the legendary Louise Brooks as gorgeous, naive Thymian, who gets knocked up by her pharmacist father's assistant. Torn from her home by her pregnancy and her father's marriage to an ambitious housekeeper, she ends up in one of cinema's more peculiar reformatories. More like a lesbian lunatic asylum, it's run by a scary, bald, giant voyeur and a sadistic butch frau who practically creams when she's abusing the girls. Brooks moves with commanding power through this surprisingly modern, beautifully photographed tale of upward and downward mobility. She's

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Moritz Bleibtreu in
Oliver Hirschbiegel's
The Experiment

Hankering for Colin Hanks

Jack Black and
Colin Hanks



His first leading role is in 'Orange County'

by David Lamble

For the sake of brevity, honesty, and a cheap laugh, I will now disclose the only gay-specific moment of my 23-minute conversation with Colin Hanks in a posh suite at the Ritz-Carlton hotel. In the wonderfully manic satire *Orange County*, opening Friday, Hanks is Shaun Brumder, a slightly overeager applicant to Stanford University. Shaun is pleading with the Stanford Dean of Admissions (played by veteran comedy director Harold Ramis) to consider him Stanford material, despite the misfortune of his having Lily Tomlin as his guidance counselor. Ramis, under the influence of three hits of Ecstasy administered to him by Hank's very wayward brother, Jack Black, starts to come on to Hanks.

"He's a good kisser [Harold Ramis], he's a good kisser,

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Betty Buttocks

Can we tawk. There are face-lifts, and then there are face-lifts. Out There is mightily impressed with the Castro Theatre's major facelift. We say: **Joan Rivers**, eat your heart out. Plush new seats, sparkling clean floors, hip faux walls, a big ol' stage, and a spanking-new sound system. What a way to start the new year — seats with actual back and butt support!

To help celebrate the newly renovated movie palace, our old, old pal **Hostess Huestis** and the ever-ubiquitous **Lawrence** ("Hostess Helper?") **Helman** have come up with a Jim-dandy of an event, *An Evening with Ann-Margret*, Friday, February 22 at the Castro.

"Over the summer I heard film star **Ann-Margret** was coming to San Francisco with the run of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* at the Golden Gate Theatre, Feb. 12 through March 10," says Huestis, who knows a thing or two about best little whorehouses. "I just knew we had to honor her amazing film career while she was here."

The two-time Academy Award nominee, six-time Emmy nominee and Golden Globe winner will take center stage at the majestic Castro. She'll be queried about her illustrious film career by *People Are Talking's* **Ann Frasier**. (What's the *Hat Lady* doing that night, washing her hair? Seems the two Anns go way back — they



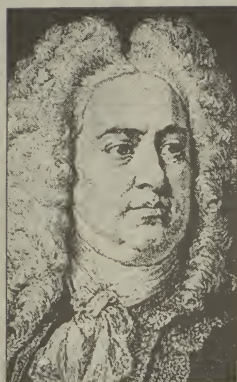
Ann-Margret and Elvis Presley star in *Viva Las Vegas*

both shook their pom-poms on the cheerleading squad at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois. Perhaps they'll share a few of the old routines? Go, team!

Effervescent **Connie Champagne**, who, along with the rest of the cast of *Christmas with the*

Crawfords, recently wowed even hard-bitten critics in the Big Apple, returns to the Castro to emcee the festive evening. Screening will be a fab clip-reel of A-M career highlights, and the 1964 classic *Viva Las Vegas* starring **Elvis the Pelvis Himselvis**. Partial proceeds for the evening benefit the very worthy **Project Open Hand**.

But Ann-Margretmania doesn't end there. Castro programming wizardess **Anita Monga** has whipped up a wild weekend entitled *Viva Ann-Margret*, featuring screenings of four other classics from the Goddess of Give: *Kitten with a Whip* (no, **Mr. Marcus**, that's not your life story!) and *Bye Bye Birdie* on Sat., Feb. 23; and *Tommy and Carnal Knowledge* on Sun., Feb. 24. And when's the last time you thought of **Art Garfunkel** in a carnal way? Call (415) 863-0611 or e-mail hostess@best.com for ticket info on the Feb. 22 gala. Tell 'em Out There sent you and get a \$2 discount for that glittering event.



Gorgeous George Handel

Gay history channel

Can you Handel it? An upcoming book claims that English composer **George Frideric Handel**, well-known for his *Messiah* oratorio, was queer as a \$3 bill. In *Handel as Orpheus: Voice and Desire in the Chamber Cantatas*, MIT professor **Ellen Harris** makes the claim that the "joy and heartache of gay love is the clear homosexual subtext of his operatic works."

Harris argues that the composer's complete avoidance of gender in his cantatas also makes the case that he was gay. It's true, Handel never married, and his career was supported by a gay circle: **Lord Burlington** and the **Duke of Chandos**, his British patrons, were both gay. **Prince Francesco Maria Ruspoli**, one of his Italian benefactors, was also known to be gay. The book on Handel will be published by Harvard University Press in February.

Meanwhile, Canadian director **Renny Bartlett's** new biopic *Eisenstein* portrays seminal Soviet filmmaker **Sergei Eisenstein** as gay as a goose. *The New York Times* reports that Eisenstein (**Simon McBurney**) "and his protégé and male lover, Grisha (**Raymond Coulthard**), appear to consummate their relationship during a trip to Mexico. Grisha (the nickname of the Soviet filmmaker **Grigori Alexandrov**), a Soviet director of musical comedies, eventually became one of Stalin's favorite filmmakers and married **Lyubov Orlova**, the first Russian movie star."

"Eisenstein imagines a gay relationship between Eisenstein and his protégé that takes a nasty turn when Grisha becomes Eisenstein's unofficial censor." That can really throw a wrench in the works.



Tynan as Louise Brooks in 1976.

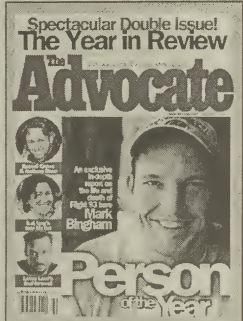
Under English skies

A thumb through the index of the recently published diaries of departed British theatre critic **Kenneth Tynan** (edited by **John Lahr**; Bloomsbury) finds these listings for its title subject:

"sado-masochistic escapades," "sexual tastes," and "spanking obsession" — and that's just under "S!" Into the last category apparently fall Tynan's dalliances with star of stage and screen **Rita Moreno**. An appearance by Moreno on the *Merv Griffin* show in 1977 sends

Tynan's thoughts skittering back to 1964: "Much as we adored each other, there was too much spanking for her to take... Rita, whose anus I licked in Bristol, London and Newcastle... whose firm, tawny bottom I joyfully snacked; who sucked me off by daylight in a train as it passed through Royal Oak station..." Back to the index!

Out There



Cover distortion

Memo to the editors of the *Advocate*: What part of the meaning of "Exclusive" don't you under-

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Playwright Amy Freed on 'The Beard of Avon'

by Richard Dodds

A lot of people tried to convince Amy Freed to change the name of her play. "They thought it was too cheesy," Freed said of *The Beard of Avon*. "But I stuck with it because it's important that we send a comic message right from the start."

Although the play does deal with the endless scholarly debates over who really wrote Shakespeare's great works — and Freed does have some serious observations to make on the subject of craft and genius — it is foremost her intent to make audiences laugh.

"I've written the play in a kind of very bent Elizabethan vernacular," Freed said, "something like bad Renaissance Festival. So you know you're in silly hands."

When ACT's production opens Jan. 16 at the Geary Theatre, it will be the fourth production of the play since its premiere last spring at Costa Mesa's South Coast Repertory Theatre. With more major regional theater productions lined up, *Beard of Avon* promises to be the most successful play yet for the late-blooming San Francisco playwright.

About the title: A "beard" in this context is that quasi-inside term for a frontman (or woman) participating in some sort of deception. Some figure William Shakespeare was the beard for Edward De Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, who, for various political reasons, couldn't sign his own name to his plays. So he used Shakespeare, these theorists say, this guy who was a barely literate bumpkin who couldn't possibly have written these great works.

In Freed's view, Shakespeare was both the beard and bard of Avon, someone who had help in learning how to exploit his latent genius. "I know absolutely that nobody in theater gets anywhere without some powerful connection or help at some point," she said. "De Vere is the missing link."

Freed also tapped into rumors from De Vere's day that he was a sexual libertine. "He went to Venice and came back with a young man with whom he lived openly in London, which apparently created a big scandal," the playwright said. "He seems to have been a lot like I portray him, although my portrayal is over the top and comic."

The possible bisexuality of Shakespeare is also suggested. "I wanted to open the mainstream public, in a kind of a light and frothy way, to the possibility that this man was more complicated and more turbulent in his private life than the conventional image we have," she said. "He did not fit in the straight world of Stratford."

What Freed calls "the bondage of breeding" for a family man in Shakespeare's day could be offset with relationships with other men. "You could really expand," she said, "while home life was just a trap."

Freed, married to *Chronicle* film critic Mick LaSalle, made the conscious decision to avoid "the bondage of breeding." "You have to make a choice between art and imagination, and the total back-



Freed says she wrote the play in "bad Renaissance Festival" vernacular.

breaking rigor of the responsible world," she said, with some humor. "You do what calls you the strongest."

What called her the strongest for most of her young adult life was an acting career. Although she wasn't particularly successful, she's glad she didn't embrace playwriting any earlier than she did.

"I teach acting at Stanford, and I see that the people who are called to theater are often the shyest, the most neurotic, the most scared, and they want to blossom," Freed said. "That's what it was for me. I was a basket case looking to be a full human being, and in a lot of ways, the 15 years I spent in acting did bring me back to full humanity."

It also gave her an insider's look at the tools available to the playwright. She first used them when she wrote *Still Warm* while still studying acting at ACT.

First produced in 1991 by San Francisco's Climate Theatre, that play was inspired by the downhill life and career of newswoman Jessica Savitch.

Then came plays that debunked the notion of Emily Dickinson as a cookie-baking homemaker (*The Ghoul of Amherst*), imagined the emotional and artistic struggles of Sylvia Plath, Robert Lowell, Anne Sexton, and Ted Hughes (*The Psychic Life of Strangers*), and used the eccentricities of her own family to explore "the sense of free-form fury and a sense of betrayal in the children of America" (*Freedomland*).

Freedomland went on to a New York production, Freed's only play to date to do so, but it was not successful.

"That was a huge disappointment to me, because I thought it was the best play I had written," Freed said. "I still do, in terms of going into the deepest waters. So I hope that *Beard of Avon* allows me to live, and that *Freedomland* will get revived."

Short scenes

• Last season, Theatre Rhinoceros did *Rhinoceros*. Now it's

Berkeley Rep's turn, with local actor-clown-legend Geoff Hoyle playing Ionesco's everyman. Previews begin Jan. 18, with a night/OUT performance and post-show reception for LGBT audiences set for Jan. 24. Call (510) 647-2918.

• Charles Ludlam's *The Mys-*



Patrick Dukeman and Lee Corbett in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*

tery of *Irma Vep*, the play that helped legitimize the idea of "theater of the ridiculous," begins its run Jan. 19 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. Lee Corbett and Patrick Dukeman play a number of characters in quick-change fashion in a send-up of Victorian thrillers. Call 861-8972.

• For Noel Coward's *Design for Living*, opening Jan. 19 at Theatre Rhinoceros, director John Fisher has given the 1932 *menage-à-trois* comedy a contemporary setting, sprinkled in songs by Coward, and added four players to serve as a kind of Greek chorus. After all,

Fisher is the man who created *Medea: The Musical*. Call 861-5079.

• Gay San Francisco playwright Adam Bock, who scored a hit in 1999 with his man-shark love story *Swimming in the Shallows*, returns with a fanciful rendering of a family drama in which miracles do prevail. The Encore Theatre Company production of *Five Flights* opens Jan. 17 at the Thick House. Call 401-8081. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



Backstage



berkeley rep



by eugene ionesco / directed by barbara damashuk
translated and adapted by allen kuharski and georges moskos

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Brother-in-arms Josh Hartnett

Leading the troops into Somalia in Ridley Scott's 'Black Hawk Down'

by Tim Nasson

Josh Hartnett has been a movie star since debuting in 1998's *H2O* opposite Jamie Lee Curtis. As her son, he had an Edward Scissorhands-like coif. "I cut it myself," he says, "and the hairstylist thought it looked cool, so she let it be pretty much the way I had cut and styled it." Until now, Hartnett has been relegated to teen idol status, appearing in another horror/sci-fi genre film, *The Faculty*, and sappy teen dramas like *Here on Earth*, *The Virgin Suicides*, *O* and *Blow Dry*.

Memorial Day weekend last year saw the release of *Pearl Harbor*, which industry analysts and kiss-asses predicted would surpass *Titanic*'s unsinkable take at the box office. It seemed Hartnett, who got second billing in *Pearl Harbor* behind Boston bad boy Ben Affleck, was well on his way to superstar status, albeit in another cheesy love story masked in an epic war film. But not all dreams come true. *Pearl Harbor* only managed to take in at the box office what it cost to make, \$200 million. It was hardly the megahit so many, Hartnett included, had expected it to be.

Fast-forward a half-year. The US/Afghan war is underway, and award-winning director Ridley (Gladiator, Hannibal) Scott has just put the finishing touches on



Josh Hartnett stars as Staff Sgt. Matt Eversmann.

his docu-style drama chronicling the unspeakable actions which killed US soldiers in Mogadishu,

Somalia, on October 3, 1993.

In *Black Hawk Down*, Hartnett does not play second fiddle. He

leads an ensemble into battle, trying to save their lives and the remains of their fallen brothers-in-arms.

Twenty-three-year-old, 6'3" 165-lb. Hartnett, who plays four years younger on screen, spent six months on location in Morocco, preparing for and taking on the role of Staff Sgt. Matt Eversmann.

"I've always been patriotic," says Hartnett, elbows on the table, hands resting under his chin. "When this role was offered to me, I didn't even have to think about whether or not I wanted it, just as when I accepted the role in *Pearl Harbor*."

According to Hartnett, the war films are anything but similar. "What really sets *Black Hawk Down* apart from *Pearl Harbor* is that it tells the story about something important that most of us don't know much, if anything, about. It's one of those stories that when people watch it, they'll say, 'Damn, I can't believe that this actually happened.' And I hope that the movie will get people interested in all of the other things that are currently happening around the world." By other things, Hartnett is speaking not solely about terrorism, but "famine, civil unrest, and poverty."

Boot campers

While acting can be stressful, especially under the circum-

stances surrounding the filming of a war movie, Hartnett explains that the acting he did in *Black Hawk Down* and *Pearl Harbor* was a roll in the hay compared to what he endured while preparing for the roles. "Ridley sent 21 of us to boot camp for two weeks. Talk about immersing yourself in a role. This was no boot-camp vacation, it was the real thing. It certainly got me and every other actor in tip-top shape, and changed our outlook as to what soldiers go through to fight for their countries. It's not only physically exhausting, but also mentally challenging."

With *Black Hawk* the fourth in the string of releases Hartnett was in during 2001, he has hardly had any time for himself. It doesn't end there. His next film, *40 Days, 40 Nights*, a comedy of sexual proportions, opens in March.

"Yeah, it's quite a departure from the last few movies I have been in," says Hartnett. "Each movie serves its purpose, though. *Black Hawk Down* is a true story, a part of history for all to see. *40 Days* is a comedy about a kid, me, who vows to go through Lent without sex," even after meeting the hottest girl in town, a girl who tries hard to get him to break his commitment. ▼

Black Hawk Down opens next Friday, January 18.

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Colin Hanks

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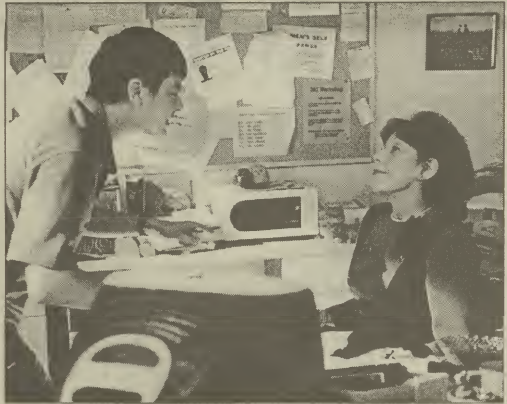
that's for sure," quips young Colin, slyly raising one of the great eyebrows that came with the Hanks family DNA.

For a great deal of its running time, *Orange County* is the kind of nihilistic teen comedy in the tradition of *Animal House* (co-written by Ramis) rarely seen these days on the big screen, in fact seen almost exclusively on the Fox network (the wildly anarchic *Malcolm in the Middle* is a prime-time example). Written by Mike White (a creative force behind the critically acclaimed TV comedy *Freaky and Geeks*), *Orange County* kicks off when one of Shaun's buddies drowns in a bizzare surfing mishap. Then, like a message in a bottle, Shaun finds a book in the sand, a novel, *Straight Jacket*, that shows him what to do with his life — forsake the endless summer and be a writer.

When I suggest that Shaun is learning to be a nerd, Hanks disagrees. "The thing with Shaun is that he was the cool guy who decided to be the nerd. And when I say nerd, I only mean he wants to do something with his life. He's got a goal, he wants to be a writer. He's not a nerd along the lines of *Freaky and Geeks*, but he's definitely no longer the supercool kid anymore. He's got some purpose in his life, he wants to be intellectual, and he doesn't want to just party, to smoke a blunt and jump off the roof."

Splitsville USA

Like the character he plays, Colin Hanks is the product of a broken home — his father, actor/producer Tom Hanks, divorced his mother when Colin was in the first grade — so the axis of his life constantly shifted



Colin Hanks as Shaun, Lily Tomlin as Charlotte Cobb in *Orange County*

between his native Sacramento and Hollywood. "[Divorce] always stinks... but I got to see my father more than some kids whose parents are divorced and live in the same town! It was very nice to grow up in Sacramento in a very normal atmosphere, the vibe of a small town, and then also to go down to Los Angeles. It sucked, don't get me wrong, but it was the best situation to be able to see both of my parents regularly. My dad's very old-fashioned, so the effect of who he is and what he's done sort of means dilly-squat in our house, you know, no sodas on the couch and that sort of stuff. Regardless of everything that would be going on around us, Oscars and movies, it never really affected the family too much."

Colin admits that while his own decision to turn to acting took place in college, father Tom provided him with a nice assist by including young Colin in the first film the older Hanks got a chance to direct, the 1996 backstage comedy on the rock business, *That*

Thing You Do. He adds that the satirical thrust of *Orange County* reflects a very different world from the one he was raised in. "We're poking fun at the mom who marries the older guy for the money, and the dad who marries the younger girl for the looks. We're making fun of the high school kids who, when their favorite song comes up, bust out into a pre-choreographed dance. What was hysterical for me was that even when Shaun gets to Stanford, he realizes it's the exact same thing there, you can't really escape it."

Orange County comes with a pedigree that is the Hollywood version of the old 400 families that once ruled over proper society: Colin (son of Tom), director Jake (son of Lawrence Kasdan), co-star Schuyler Fisk (daughter of Sissy Spacek), and an illustrious supporting cast that has graced many an Oscar night — John Lithgow, Harold Ramis, Lily Tomlin, Chevy Chase, Kevin Kline

next page ►

Breeder madness

Jan Svankmajer's 'Little Otik' plays the Red Victorian Movie House

by Gary Morris

Despite its tortured history, Eastern Europe, but particularly Czechoslovakia, has managed to produce an almost uninterrupted flow of the world's great animation over the past few decades. This is due to consistent state support for the format, a long folkloric tradition, and individual artists like Jan Svankmajer who manage to get state funding for projects that would induce seizures in knock-kneed American grant committees.

Svankmajer, who mines some of the same black-comic territory as the Brothers Quay, started working with stop-animation shorts in the 1960s, but has turned increasingly to features that mingle live action with startling animation effects. His reputation was made with the masterful *Alice* (1987), based on the Lewis Carroll classic; *Faust* (1994); and the fetish classic *Conspirators of Pleasure* (1996). With his latest feature, *Little Otik* (2000), playing the Red Vic Movie House Jan. 11-24, Svankmajer is poised to move out of the ghetto tag of animator and take his place as a cinema visionary who happens to use animation in his films.

Little Otik is based on a Czech fairy tale about a childless couple who adopt a tree stump that looks like a baby. As usual with fairy tales, any deviation from normal

behavior triggers disaster — in this case, the stump comes to life, grows huge, and starts murdering and eating everybody and everything in its path. Svankmajer, who's credited with story, screenplay, and direction, uses this narrative as a springboard for a genre-busting masterpiece about the perils of parenthood, and what can happen to those who don't leave well enough alone with the status quo nature has determined.

One of Svankmajer's great strengths is in visualizing an unpredictable, maddeningly persistent impinging of a kind of demonic world into prosaic reality. This is evident from the opening scene of *Little Otik*, where human babies are swept up in nets like fish, weighed at an outdoor market, and wrapped in newspaper to be taken home for purposes not yet clear — adoption? consumption? Elsewhere, we see an infant inside a watermelon. It's soon apparent that hallucinated babies, filtered through a cracked world-view, are the obsession of Bozhena Horak (Veronika Zilkova), whose barrenness is the tragedy of her life. As a joke, her husband Karel (Jan Hartl) brings her a tree stump that he's carved into what vaguely resembles a baby. To his shock, she falls completely under the spell of this inanimate creature, powdering and diapering it, kissing and hugging it, and defending it from



As the stump baby grows up in *Little Otik*, its demands increase.

Karel's attempts to end the joke and "kill" the "baby." Svankmajer takes the trope to heights of absurdity as Bozhena concocts an elaborate fiction around her pregnancy, stuffing nine pillows of different size to match each month (each pillow has a huge number on the front). This craziness is of course encouraged by the neighborhood busybodies, who attribute all the curiosities attendant upon this "birth" — nobody witnessed it, nobody sees the baby — to Bozhena's eccentricity and the confusions of first-time motherhood.

Pram night

Svankmajer is never shy about visualizing the barely imaginable, and per the fairy tale, when the wooden child comes to life, he ratchets up Bozhena's insanity and the audience's discomfort level by having it suck her nipple, gurgle, and in one memorable sequence that portends disaster, try to suck the hair out of her head. Typical of the mindlessly doting mother being skewered here, she interprets this as a style question: Otik is suggesting she cut her hair. As the creature grows out of its pram to frightening proportions, its demands increase. Homely-ironic images of what looks like hundreds of baby bottles filled and waiting contrast with the monster's ruthless destruction, via a big ugly maw, of anyone who comes near it.

Material like this is so extreme it's nearly impossible to carry off, but the film encourages us to suspend disbelief partly by anchoring the narrative in humdrum characters (wonderfully played straight by the actors) and their depressingly realistic daily lives. The apartment house where the Horaks live (and where they hide the "kid") is filled with minutely observed, creepy-comic subplots: nosy 10-year-old neighbor brat Alzbeta's detective work that un-

covers what's really going on and makes her an accomplice to Otik; a decrepit, nearsighted pervert whose lust for Alzbeta is used against him by the canny little girl; and the Horaks themselves, who alternately refer to Otik as "son" and "that monster," and seem helpless, in the face of their unlikely parental impulses, to stop its reign of terror.

Bozhena's (and occasionally her weary husband's) embrace of the monster occasions some of *Little Otik*'s most powerful sequences. One of these is a distressingly real scene of "child abuse" when Karel grabs the wooden baby, still small, and repeatedly smashes it against a table as Bozhena screams in anguish, "Give me my baby!" In a brilliant stroke, Otik's voice remains that of a gurgling, pathetic infant when it's wreaking major havoc, giving the film a surprising pathos.

The film is also capable of charm, though it's far from unalloyed. In a dreamy sequence, Alzbeta reads the fairy tale on which the film is based, and the screen is filled with fanciful folk art showing the pathetic couple, their adoption of the stump, and its progress from fake baby enriching their empty lives to towering monster devouring them.

While there's more screen time devoted to "real people" in the film than in some of his past work, Svankmajer doesn't stint on the visually outré. The old pervert's horniness for Alzbeta is visualized in a hilariously weird close-up of his crotch, where the buttons pop and a hand creeps out. But the director saves his best chops for Otik, a cooing, crying mess of branches and rotting teeth. One of the lures of *Little Otik* is its expert balancing act between the grotesque, the comic, and the pathetic. Like the best art, it's hard to know whether to laugh or cry at the film. And as another monster on the cultural landscape would say, that's a good thing. ▼

Showtimes at the Red Vic:
(415) 668-3994

Colin Hanks

◀ previous page

(unbilled as *Straight Jacket* author Marcus Skinner), Gary Marshall, and *Second City* TV alumnus Catherine O'Hara. But the core of the film's winning comic chemistry is between Hanks' latter-day Jimmy Stewart-like charm and the comic loose cannon that is Jack Black.

Black, who was scary funny as the small mammal nosing hippie pilgrim in Alison MacLean's stream-of-consciousness ode to '70s drug culture, *Jesus' Son*, and just a little more down to earth as

the record clerk from Hell in Stephen Frear's *High Fidelity*, is the out-of-control engine behind Shaun's last whack at Stanford. Giving a John Belushi-like reading to Shaun's older brother Lance, who gets the Dean so high he can't decide whether he wants to admit Shaun or date him, Black turns the decibel level of the comedy up so high that even an old Stanford grad might give way to the impulse to want to burn the place down.

Orange County promises to greatly expand the audience for screenwriter Mike White, whose debut feature, *Chuck & Buck*, wowed indie festivals but kept a

rather low profile at the box office. Hanks says the experience of watching *Chuck & Buck* helped clinch the deal of working with White on *Orange County*. "It's one of the most disturbingly funny movies I've seen, and also one of the most disturbingly disturbing movies I've ever seen. You never knew what was going to happen," Hanks, noting that White has admitted to small traces of autobiography in Shaun Brumder, says that "White is one writer you'd never want to banish from the set," since he is able to give an actor clues on how subtle adjustments in his performance can transform the character. ▼

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©SP91 2002. Photo: David Allen

She writes in vacuity

by Deborah Peifer

The good news is that this novel is left over from 2001, and does not, therefore, need to be taken as a dismal portent for the upcoming fiction season. The bad news, of course, is that I had to read it. I shall take a few moments to save you from a similar fate.



She Walks in Beauty by Nicole Conn (Naiaid, \$14.95) is a wretched excuse for the loss of so many trees. Conn, the perpetrator of *Claire of the Moon* among other horrors, offers a paean to the suffering artist (but where is her concern for the suffering reader, I ask you?) in which Spencer, a would-be filmmaker (she writes screenplays, you see, but really wants to direct — what an original con-

cept!), discovers that she just might be a dyke by getting involved with a woman so brutally sadistic that she would give Pat Califia pause. And why might she be a lesbian? Because she was sexually abused by her stepfather, of course. Isn't that why every lesbian becomes a lesbian?

After 44 pages of Spencer angst complete with flashbacks, she comes to the conclusion that "I was going to write again." In the world of the novel, this is considered to be a joyous discovery. In our world, however, this is unhappy news indeed.

Thus begins *Cynara*, Spencer's novel within Conn's novel. If the Spencer portions are ghastly, and they are, Blanche, they are, the Cynara segments are conspicuously worse. At no point does Conn capture the historical period in which her character seems to be living. The nov-in-nov begins with its heroine, Lilian, being brutally raped by her brother. This means that, eventually, Lilian, who will by then, for reasons unknown, have changed her name to Byron, will discover that she's a lesbian, too!

Lilian meets many famous people on her journey to Byronness, characters inserted, one presumes, because their fame means that Conn need not endow them with any actual characteristics, since her readers will, presumably, have heard of Dorothy Parker,

Ernest Hemingway ("Ernest is a grand Yank ... I call him Hem"), and Gertrude Stein, and fill in the blanks themselves. This saving in time and effort means that Conn can devote more time to creating one-dimensional fictional characters who, angels and ministers of grace defend us, write. She also gives us examples of their writing which are just as awful, as you might imagine.

For reasons known to herself alone, Conn uses multiple narrative voices, juggling view-

points among Spencer's present, Spencer's past, Lilian's present, and journal entries from someone named Parnell that appear for no reason and are not explained for pages. We

know when the voices change, not because of any change in diction or speech patterns provided by Conn, but thanks to the very helpful publisher, who uses different typefaces for each. In all this switching of narrators, alas, Conn shows us she is just as inept a writer as ever. She just seems worse because her project is so much more difficult. In her effort to show us the tortured soul of a writer, she merely succeeds in convincing us that her own soul could use a serious ego-ectomy. *She Walks in Beauty* is a bloody bore.

On a brighter note

I was going to say that there are two Castros, one real, one imagi-



nary, but I suspect that a more accurate observation might be that every queer has her or his own vision of what the Castro is, one that may or may not hold up on a first visit to the legendary lane. *Out in the Castro* (edited by Winston Leyland; Leyland, \$24.95) offers a fascinating collection of essays, stories, poems, and photos that provide dozens of visions of the Castro, past and present.

Richard Labonté's essay ("A Different Bookstore, A Different Time") on A Different Light is particularly moving, and ought to give the current owners a sense of what the store could be again. Katie Szymanski's tale of Bob Ross and the early days of our fine publication, the *Bay Area Re-*

porter, will be of interest to all readers. The essays on Harvey Milk will make you cry, they did me. *Out in the Castro* is a splendid history of our town; don't miss it.

Eventually, events

Editor Danya Ruttenberg discusses her extraordinary new book, *Yentl's Revenge*, on January 10, 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light. Also at ADL, on January 15, 7 p.m., the new women's reading group gets together to discuss Anita Shreve's *The Pilot's Wife*.

Episcopal priests William Countryman and M.R. Ritley talk about their new book, *Gifted by Otherness: Gay and Lesbian Christians in the Church* at the Main Library, January 20 at 3 p.m. Also at the Main, as part of *The Many Faces of Alec Guinness* series, a showing of a great film, one of Guinness' best, *Tunes of Glory*, on January 17 at Noon. While you're at the Main, hop up to the fifth floor to view an exhibit of strange and unusual patents, including, among others, patents for a tooth pillow and a dimple producer. The exhibition runs through January 31. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

Murder, he wrote

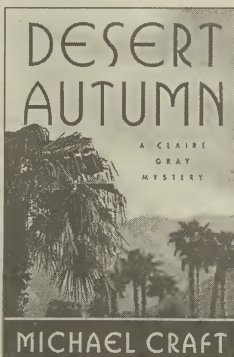
by Robert Julian

Desert Autumn by Michael Craft; St. Martin's Minotaur, \$23.95

Desert Autumn is the first in a new series of murder mysteries by Michael Craft, the author of *Boy Toy*. The resident sleuth of the collection is one Claire Gray, a successful Broadway writer/director in her mid-'50s, who has relocated to accept an academic appointment to a new performing arts college built by a billionaire computer genius. The unmarried Manhattanite trades Gotham for Palm Springs and, shortly after reporting for duty, Claire uncovers the body of the wife of a colleague. From this point forward, the novel progresses in an entirely too predictable, *Murder, She Wrote* fashion. There is no question as to who will solve the murder, just how long it might take.

Craft's writing style is not what you would call sophisticated. The whiff of tightly permed curls and blue rinses rises from the page in an unmistakable fashion; this is the kind of writing enjoyed (and produced) by maiden aunts in the privacy of their bedrooms. It is a genre novel, and Craft's style is, at best, workmanlike.

Consider this first person singular, and plural, paragraph from Chapter Six. "Immediately after my move from the East Coast, due



to the three-hour time difference, I awoke each day much earlier than was my habit. To my surprise, this jet lag benignly lingered. Now ensconced two weeks in my new home, I still rose with the sun, around 6:30 in early September, with the consequence that I tucked myself in each night well before eleven. We denizens of the theater world are notorious night owls, so this shift of my sleeping pattern was all the more remarkable. I found, though, that I missed none of the whirl of my former nightlife, which was more than compensated for by the intoxicating rewards of sunrise."

Those who find this sort of prose rewarding will be in hog heaven with *Desert Autumn*. ▼

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BOOKS

Ready for this?

Hitler was gay

by Robert Julian

The Hidden Hitler by Lothar Machtan; Basic Books, \$26

In Lothar Machtan's exhaustively researched and documented new book, *The Hidden Hitler*, the human side of Adolf Hitler takes center stage. Hitler, the man, was a pathological liar, a megalomaniac, a failed artist, a boor, a bully, a sociopath, an incredibly charismatic speaker, a raving paranoid, a *grand mal* manipulator, and — most importantly — a homosexual. The latter character trait is at the core of Machtan's *The Hidden Hitler*, and, although few readers will derive comfort from this new revelation, in 321 pages of text (with 95 additional pages of footnotes), the author makes a case that is essentially irrefutable.

The Hidden Hitler is a scholarly work and not a light read; don't expect a Dominique Dunne sort of exposé out of the *Vanity Fair* school of journalism. Machtan's work has been translated and simultaneously released in eight different languages, which gives you a fair indication of the publisher's confidence in the author's credibility. Even before I began exploring the facts and circumstances illuminated by Machtan's text, I had to admit to myself that, if Hitler were a closeted homosexual, it could explain a great many aspects of *der Führer's* personality.

There is no smoking gun in *The Hidden Hitler*. No man comes forward to say that he personally had an affair with Hitler, and no written affidavits are introduced to this effect. But Machtan is careful to point out that this not because such documents did not exist at one time. Their conspicuous absence is due to a concerted

effort on the part of the dictator to eradicate all written records of his early, libidinous years, and to imprison, intimidate, exile, or murder all those who were a witness to his active participation in Germany's gay life of the early 20th century.

All-male hotel

Machtan focuses on Hitler's life between the ages of 16 and 46 (1905-1935). Orphaned at the age of 18, Hitler took up the bohemian life and resolved to become a painter. He was something of a vagabond, traveling between cities, selling his painted postcards and small canvases in cafes while living in single-room occupancy hotels that were exclusively male and — in reputation — not far removed from contemporary YMCAs. Since his income from painting was so small, Machtan deduces that Hitler probably supplemented his early income by turning tricks out of these residential hotels.

Hitler was an aesthete who loved opera and the theater, and waxed rhapsodic over the work of composer Richard Wagner, who was to German gay men of the early 20th century what Judy Garland was to American gay men of the 1960s. Hitler was profoundly uncomfortable in the company of women and, for his entire life, he surrounded himself with men. His brief and undistinguished career as a WWI soldier was limited to service as a runner, delivering messages. But his close relationship with another runner, Ernst Schmidt, earned them both the "nancyboy" label. Machtan believes it is Hitler's reputation as a homosexual, and his inseparable relationship with Schmidt from 1914-1919, that prevented him from receiving a single promotion during his four years in the military.



Hitler in his favorite queeny pose as the virile "Führer," 1938

Randy andies

After the war, Hitler returned to the bohemian life, but, after being rejected by art schools, he found himself drawn to politics. He became involved in the National Socialist Party, where his innermost circle of associates was a randy collection of homosexuals. At first, they held court in cafes. But as the movement solidified and Hitler rose among its ranks, an elite military wing, the SA, was created, which Hitler placed under the leadership of Ernst Rohm, an unapologetic homosexual. The SA actually glorified homoeroticism; it was seen as a way of uniting the troops and enhancing morale.

But Hitler's rise in the party created enemies, and these ene-

mies began to collect a dossier on Hitler's homosexual activities in Munich and elsewhere. With the infamous Paragraph 175 still on the books, a law that criminalized homosexuality, the increasingly overt homoeroticism of the movement became problematic. There were many published attacks on Hitler's masculinity, and, finally, he lashed out ruthlessly. On June 30, 1934, he began a three-day purge of the party's homosexuals that came to be referred to as "the night of the long knives." Rohm was murdered, and over 130 homosexual SA members, attorneys, bureaucrats, and civilians who knew too much were rounded up and imprisoned or assassinated. A few days later, the party passed a resolution

which legalized the purge.

"With Rohm, the old spirit of the Hitlerian fraternity based on erotic friendship disappeared, to be replaced by one of total suppression leading to fanatical hatred. That was how the unexpected happened. Benevolently tolerated hitherto, love of man for man was pilloried overnight as abominable homosexual vice.... Hitler now gave his fraternity by another name a different face, and, at the same time, instituted his moral double standards. Within the fraternity, sex was to play no further part: all his men had to conduct themselves like their (impotent) Führer.... Off duty, they were granted complete freedom, particularly in sexual matters." For the dictator, this public castigation of homosexuality, combined with a private ability to look the other way, gave him the greatest possible control over his troops.

From this point forward, Hitler became completely repressive in his own sexual expression. Machtan theorizes that the dictator, due to the increasing demands of his job and his own paranoia, resorted to celibacy for the rest of his years, ultimately marrying his beard, Eva Braun, a few days before the Reich collapsed.

Ultimately, Machtan's work in *The Hidden Hitler* becomes surprising only because it has never been undertaken before. But the author explains that, in all things Hitlerian, the German national obsession is a desire not to know. The dictator's systematic eradication of documents and records that betrayed his personal life did not help this situation. *The Hidden Hitler* stands on its own merits as a valuable document connecting the dots between man and monster. ▼

TELEVISION

Heart of high school



The candid new documentary series *Senior Year* debuts this month on PBS, and runs for 13 installments weekly. Filmed in and around Fairfax High, Los Angeles' most ethnically and culturally diverse public school, the series tells the in-depth personal stories of 15 students.

We'll be tuning in to meet Jet. He's Filipino, he's openly and happily gay, he's a cheerleader, and he's a member of the campus ROTC! In episode 4, he attends "Models of Pride," a day of workshops for gay and lesbian students. In episode 8, Jet cheers on the school basketball team. In episode 11, he goes calling at a couple of modeling agencies! Who needs *Queer As Folk*? ▼

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Dream 'Bohème,' Falstaff in a fatsuit

Opera out on DVDs

by Philip Campbell

Much has been said about the high cost of opera DVDs, especially when compared with the more reasonable pricing of pop music videos. Whatever the reasons, it is still cheaper to own an opera on disc than to purchase an orchestra seat.

There is another plus. You can see more, hear better, and program encores, all from the comfort of the best seat in the house — your favorite easy chair.

La Bohème

Giacomo Puccini

The Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Julian Smith, conductor, directed by Baz Luhrmann (Image Entertainment)

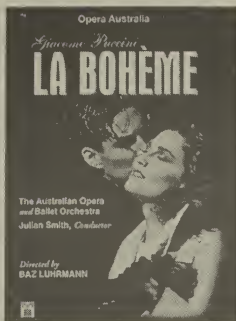
Before he was given the budget of *Moulin Rouge*, but after he had proved himself with *Strictly Ballroom*, director Baz Luhrmann attempted a fresh staging of Puccini's beloved precursor to *Rent*, for Opera Australia.

Working with a cast of young unknowns, all chosen for their

looks and acting as much as for their voices, and with a team of brilliant designers, Luhrmann created a dream *Bohème*. The production has been available in other formats for some time. It looks and sounds better than ever on DVD.

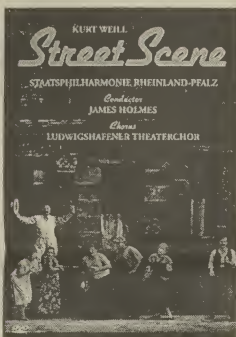
In the postwar Paris of the 1950s, this group of friends struggles to make their way surrounded by characters that range from sugar daddies to drag queens. They are funny and brave and, ultimately, heartbreaking. The ensemble cast makes compelling drama and lends charm to the comedy. David Lemke is a snappy blond Schuarnard; Gary Rowley an intense Colline; Roger Lemke (no relation), a hunky and unusually wise Marcello; and Christine Douglas is a chic, curvaceous Musetta, good-hearted and promiscuous.

The best performances of all come from Cheryl Baker and David Hobson. For once, we have a Mimi who looks and acts like she might really be dying of consumption, and her Rodolfo is gorgeous enough to make us believe she could fall in love after only 20



minutes of some of (admittedly) the most beautiful love music ever written.

Looks can't be everything in opera, and the cast is also satisfying in their vocalizing. Still, it is their physical realism that brings the story to vivid life. If you aren't teary-eyed by the final curtain, you probably don't like showing your emotions in public. Remember that you can watch this in the privacy of your own home. Get your hankies out.



Street Scene
Kurt Weill, Elmer Rice, Langston Hughes; Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, James Holmes, conductor, directed by José Montes-Baquer (Image Entertainment)

Baz Luhrmann was going for a Broadway staging with his opera debut, but Kurt Weill actually wrote an opera for Broadway, based on a play by Elmer Rice with lyrics by the great American poet Langston Hughes. It was a

bold attempt like the Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess*, and the results were mixed; but *Street Scene* survives as an evocation of the social dramas of the '30s.

The large cast creates a slice of New York tenement life, complete with every ethnic stereotype imaginable. The portrayals are given such humanity that political correctness seems superfluous.

The central family on the block is fleshed out with dramatic believability by Ashley Putnam as a loving mother led into adultery by the insensitivity of her husband, a harshly intense Marc Embree. Their sweet, ambitious daughter is sung and played perfectly by Teri Hansen. Kip Wilborn is the boy next door, an earnest and very cute Jewish law student. Wilborn's acting and vocal talents lend depth to an underwritten role.

The music is vintage Weill, alternately lyrical, jazzy and overpoweringly dramatic. It is well-served by the handsome production. The set is fabulous — you can almost smell the heat of a humid New York summer. Shot in letterbox format, so you won't miss an inch of the action.

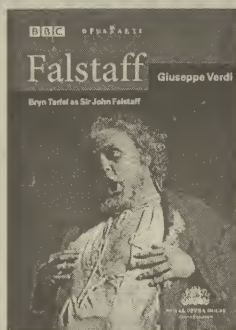
There is an undeniably dated feel to the piece, and the numbers rush past, amplified too loudly, but the cumulative effect is haunting, and there are scenes of great power. Jitterbug, blues, Broadway ballads and Italian opera all collide on this street, and you will be amazed at the authentic American flavor imparted by a German opera company.

Falstaff

Giuseppe Verdi, Arrigo Boito
The Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Bernard Haitink, conductor, directed by Graham Vick (BBC Opus Arte)

Save us from revisionists! With Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel starring as Sir John Falstaff, and new designs by Paul Brown to fit the artistic vision of Graham Vick, the first production of London's newly restored opera house seemed to have it all.

The idea was to return to the Italian roots of the story, giving a twist of Boccaccio to Verdi's last masterpiece. Unfortunately, then,



that the meanness injected via the crude burlesque of Vick's nod to *commedia dell'arte* all but obliterates the warm humanity of the opera.

Even with the sturdy but boring Bernard Haitink conducting, this is a great-sounding *Falstaff*. But the tempos are agonizingly slow for such a frenetic production, and sometimes, as in most of Act III, you will wish you were actually able to pitch your program at Haitink's head. Nevertheless, Terfel rises triumphant, despite his disfiguring fat suit and the loathsome direction. He is committed to the concept, and he sings brilliantly.

Barbara Frittoli as Alice Ford also sings luminously. How she managed such lovely sounds while being knocked about speaks well about the power of her voice. Desiree Rancatore's Nannetta is equally pure-toned, even as she is paraded about on the shoulders of a chorister. Veteran mezzo Diana Montague sounds rich as Mistress Quickly, and young black tenor Kenneth Tarver (unconventional but effective casting) is a pleasing Fenton. The rest of the cast plays along gamely.

If you want the genuinely funny side of *Falstaff*, wait for James Levine's superb Met production to appear on DVD. If you want impressive theatrical machinery and eye-poppingly vulgar costumes, see this primary-colored and rather nasty staging. The glorious music redeems it all, and there are some interesting extras on the disc, including an interview with Vick that almost explains his heavy-handedness. ▼

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TELEVISION

Return to Pittsburgh

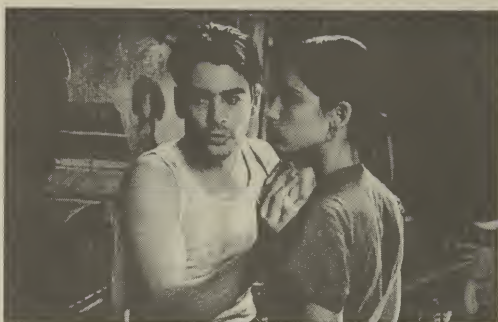


It's here, it's queer, it's back for a second season of "full frontal" episodes (according to the ad copy). This month, the new season of *Queer As Folk* is up and running for 20 new hour-long installments.

What's new with the gang on Liberty Avenue? Well, this ain't *Soap Opera Digest*, but here's a rundown of some major plot points: Michael (Hal Sparks), having broken up with last year's squeeze Dr. David, moves back to PA and buys a comic-book store. Justin (Randy Harrison), home from the hospital after last season's hideous gay-bashing, is all about post-traumatic stress syndrome. Can Brian (Gale Harold) reach out to him? Lindsay (Thea Gill) and Melanie (Michelle Clunie) dyke it up at a hetero wedding.

But you really want to know who's fucking whom. For that, you'll have to tune in, Sundays at 10 p.m. on Showtime, with repeats on Tuesdays. ▼

FILM

Eduardo Noriega (left) plays a rake in *The Devil's Backbone*.

Midnight ramblings

'The Devil's Backbone' chases ghosts

by David Lamble

Towards the end of the Spanish Civil War, Carlos (Fernando Tielve), a young boy who does not yet know that he's an orphan, is dropped off at a rundown rural school for lost boys by a man he imagines to be

his tutor, but who in fact is a soldier on the Republican (or losing) side of the war.

Carlos is at first the butt of some cruel pranks by the other boys, who resent his bourgeois past and slightly sissy manner. To fit in, Carlos must accept a challenge from the school's unofficial rebel leader, Jaime (Inigo Garcés), a slightly sullen older boy who fancies himself an artist, pouring his feverish fears and dreams into surreal drawings — his inexact rendering of the female anatomy, and the image of a murdered boy, Santi (Junio Valverde), whose ghost is said to creep down the dark hallways of the school at night, giving off a sinister sighing noise.

Mexican-born director Guillermo del Toro is known for his experiments in horror, *Cronos* and the studio-produced *Mimic*. Part of the considerable charm of his telling of *The Devil's Backbone*, now playing in Bay Area theaters, is that you can enjoy it on at least two levels — as an atmospheric ghost story, a sort of Spanish Hardy Boys in a haunted castle, or as a political fable with the long-ago war as the ghost, spiced up with some *Upstairs, Downstairs*-style sexual hanky-panky between the school's benevolent one-legged headmistress Carmen (given a world-weary but regal decorum by Marisa Paredes, last seen in Pedro Almodovar's *All About My Mother*) and a very malevolent rake of a handyman, a former orphan with a grudge against the school, played with a ferocious sensuous sizzle by Spanish matinee idol Eduardo Noriega (one half of the gay bank-robbing duo in the Argentine crime caper *Burnt Money*). Noriega's rake only obliges Carmen because he's after the key to the school's safe, where a Republican treasure of gold for the cause is hidden. He seems to get a special pleasure from her

having to screw off her wooden leg to receive him.

On the prowl

One of the tricks of *The Devil's Backbone* is the dueling narration — first, the worm's-eye view of the nightly prowlings of "he who sighs" provided by Carlos, whose sublimated feelings for Jaime match Jaime's complex longings for the dead Santi; then, the adult story's heavier metaphorical baggage, carried by the dapper aging professor Carares (Frederico Luppi from John Sayles' *Men with Guns*), who can see the impending doom for the school (and democratic, Republican Spain) but is helpless, literally impotent to prevent it.

Del Toro has a gentle touch with his splendid young cast of mostly prepubescent lads barely holding onto tattered innocence, contrasted with the angry or resigned fatalism of the adults. It's hard to believe this is only del Toro's third feature. The director is especially deft with his system of creating a double for every significant image. The professor shows Carlos jars of dead fetuses floating in what he claims is a special rum said to have sexually restorative powers, while down in the basement of the school, Carlos imagines Santi living at the bottom of a pool filled with a similarly yellow rumlike liquid.

In *The Devil's Backbone*, a young boy loses his grip on the past and learns to live in the suspended dream/nightmare void between a terrible present and an unimaginable future — learns to chase after ghosts. This is, in fact, a ghost story *not* from Industrial Light and Magic — del Toro is especially sparing in his use of special effects, saving most of his budget for Santi's midnight ramblings — but one whose life force is a simple, powerful, human story from the heart and soul of a poet. ▼

Berlin & Beyond

◀ Arts cover

a petit bourgeois naïf, a whore, and a countess by turns. Less famous than Brooks' other Pabst film *Pandora's Box*, *Diary of a Lost Girl* has its own power as a realistic study of contemporary German manners and morals, with much provocatively "decadent" imagery. Expect a shimmering refurbished print and a new score for the Castro's Mighty Wurlitzer. (1/14, 7 p.m.)

Xavier Koller's *Gripsholm* revisits the same period (it's actually set in 1932) and has some similarities in its critique of contemporary German society, though here the target is rising National Socialism and its assault on the artistic spirit. Based on the novel *Schloss Gripsholm*, the film canonizes Kurt Tucholsky, a writer regarded as "the conscience of a nation" whose remark that "all soldiers are murderers" puts him on the Nazis' shit-list. The film combines political drama and summer idyll as Kurt (who committed suicide in 1935) and his girlfriend Lydia flee the lurid cabarets of Berlin for a Swedish castle owned by a friend. There they covet, picnic, argue, fly prop planes, and engage in heated threeways with their visiting pal, the bisexual Billie (who bears a disturbing resemblance to Joanne Worley). The decadence scenes are cut-rate *Cabaret*, and Kurt's angst and Lydia's attempts to remind him of his humanity are standard stuff. The main attractions are the scenery and a compelling subplot about an abused little neighbor girl. (1/16, 7 p.m.)

Mob of fools

Nathalie Steinbart's *In the Middle of Nowhere* also explores nationalist tensions in the region, but this time the setting is contemporary. Polish immigrant and petty thief Marek hitches a ride with a thieving West German financial consultant whose car and identity he steals, stranding his unwitting benefactor in a port-a-let. Marek's attempt to escape with the goods ends in a volatile East German village, half of whose inhabitants were ripped off by the financier. With most of the action set in a local beer hall and a besieged gas station, Steinbart nicely skewers small-town life, mob mentality, and the buffoons who so easily become the mob, though a whimpering queen called variously "Mr. Pansy" and "the rear guard" won't be welcome in all quarters. The script, though basically serious, is loaded with amusingly vulgar jokes and aphorisms, some of them telling indications of the regional conflicts that plague post-unification Germany: "50 percent of a fox's intelligence comes from stupid chickens," the financier advises Marek, along with an apparently popular jibe at an alleged Polish

Fleeing the lurid cabarets of Berlin: a scene from *Gripsholm*.

pendant for stealing cars: "Come to Poland. Your car is already there." (1/12, 8 p.m.)

Run *Lola Run* benefited not only from its hyperathletic female star, but also from her gorgeous pouty-lipped boyfriend played by Moritz Bleibtreu. This increasingly popular hunk appears in two films here: Christian Zuber's *Lammbock*, in which he plays a drug dealer; and, in a real treat for Bleibtreu-watchers and fans of prison movies (and who isn't?), *Das Experiment*. It's tempting to dismiss the plot of *Das Experiment* as a stretch — 20 average Joes paid to play guards or cons in a simulated prison experiment — but, in fact, the film is based on the infamous Stanford Prison Experiment of 1972, in which unethical psychologists hired students for a virtually identical experiment that had to be aborted early when the participants became uncontrollably violent.

Director Oliver Hirschbiegel's fictionalized version is white-knuckle-ride pulp and very satisfying on that level. Naturally, the film takes some dramatic liberties. Bleibtreu plays a reporter who enters the experiment undercover to get a story, and the script invents a female love interest for him to counter all those sexy, sweaty men who spend most of their time in the fake prison wearing a little smock or nothing at all. S&M abounds as "Mr. Prison Guard" soon becomes a whip-cracking master, and the film pulls no punches in scene after scene of physical and psychological abuse. The predictable Nazi parable aspect is appropriately overdone. It's also a scathing attack on the scientists who devise such grim scenarios and fall as easily into quasi-Fascism as the guards. Moritz Bleibtreu will be at the screenings of both films. (*Das Experiment*, 1/11, 7 p.m.; *Lammbock*, 1/14, 9:30 p.m.)

Castro connection

A standout documentary in

the series is Wilfried Huismann's *Dear Fidel* — *Marita's Story*. The title is deceptive, as are the opening moments, which present 60ish Marita Lorenz as a slightly deluded, still-lovestruck ex-mistress of Fidel Castro who hopes to reconnect with him. But conspiracy theorists will instantly recognize Marita Lorenz's name; she was a key player in attempts to assassinate Fidel, worked for both the FBI and CIA in often-murderous secret campaigns, and had intimate knowledge of the Kennedy assassination, credibly fingering

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Queer new year

Lesbian and gay musicians out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

Several lesbian and gay performers released albums at the tail end of 2001, and many were released too late to be considered for end-of-the-year "best of" lists. Until the Spring releases by Meshell Ndegeocello and Ellen Rosner, I prefer to look at (and listen to) these latecomers as a good (and queer) way to begin the new year.

Seattle-based Lisa Koch had two previous incarnations before her solo career. First, she was a member of the band Venus Envy. Later, she was one-half of the musical comedy duo Dos Fallopia. On her solo discs, she found a way to balance the comedy with the more serious musical excursions, and her latest, the appropriately titled *Both of Me* (Tongueinchie), continues that trend. With guest musical appearances by Laura Love, Barbara Higbie, and Peggy (Dos Fallopia) Platt, Koch's latest album sounds like her best. Whether you prefer her serious side (the break-up ballad "I Never Think About You") or her silly side (the wicked funny but loving Carpenters parody "Stainies in my Undies," the women's music festival-ribbing "I Won't Survive (the Festival)," and the painfully on-target "Women's Health Care Medley"), there is plenty to choose from in this wonderful album.

Like Koch, Jamie Anderson has found a way to incorporate humor into her songs. On *Listen* (Tsunami), Anderson touches on a break-up ("Maybe You Miss Me"), cheating (the title track), the definition of family ("A Family of Friends"), and gun violence ("Fourteen.") She also lets loose on funny numbers such as "Pota-to Chips" and "I Miss the Dog" ("I miss the dog more than I miss you/ She's glad to see you, for you that's not true/ Oh how I miss that great little mutt/ Her kiss is sweet if she hasn't licked her butt.")

I know that I am in the minority, especially as far as the queer music website Outvoice is concerned, when it comes to Magdalen Hsu-Li. Her 1998 album *Evolution* was a favorite on the album charts, but it left me cold. I am glad to say that with *Fire* (Chickpop), her new album, I am ablaze with appreciation for her talents. Sounding like a cross between Jane Siberry and Tori Amos, Hsu-Li's songs have a new-found maturity that deserves to be

heard. From "Laramie" ("for Matthew Shepard and the community of Laramie, WY") to the very Siberry "So Far Gone" and "Aiko and I," to the soulful "As I Am" and the Amos-like "Mother," Hsu-Li has evolved.

Patrice Pike's previous work, as a member of the band Sister 7, also left me unmoved. That has totally changed with Pike's new band Black Box Rebellion and their CD *Flat 13* (Zain Music Alliance). Pike and her band actually say more over the course of this EP's seven songs (a precursor to a full-length disc due sometime this year) than she did with her other band. The approach is different here — less bombast, more beauty. It begins with instrumentation that relies on a top-notch horn section and Pike's powerful vocals. Album highlights include "The Wreckage," "All the Pieces," the Southern funk of "Crazy," and the rhythmic "Lincoln Continental."

Blame it on her youth. Allette Brooks shows promise on her third album *Swim with Me*, but her age betrays her. Compared to the songs of Patrice Pike or Lisa Koch, Brooks sounds like kid stuff, although her cover of "Lovely" is simply that. Also keep in mind New York-based Estrogen. The trio's *Tales from Lesbianville* runs the gamut from bluesy ("Lesbian Moment") to hip-hop ("Size 9") to funny folk ("Lesbian Time") and "Lesbian Prostitute"), all with a healthy dose of laughs for lesbians.

Like Stephen Merritt of the Magnetic Fields, Future Bible Heroes and Gothic Archies, LD Beghtol is involved with more than one band. One of his bands, The Moth Wranglers, released the terrific *Never Mind the Context* in 2001. His other band, Flare, released *Circa* in 2000. *Definitive* (Mother West), a "three-song maxi single," is Flare's latest offering, and it features the lush title track, the NYC Eagle Memorial Mix of "Course" (which sounds like the acoustic chamber tunes from *Circa*), and a cover of Gene Autry's "You're the Only Star (in my Blue Heaven)" that is pure Victrola. As an added bonus, John Wesley Harding contributes backing vocals.

Beghtol co-wrote the songs "What Were you Thinking" and "Trashed" with Damian Castillo for Damian's *Damaged* (Chelsea Records.) With their lush yet stripped-down arrangements, Damian's songs ("Boy on Fire," "Hopeless and Hollow") sound

like what you'd expect to hear from any of the bands with which Beghtol is affiliated.

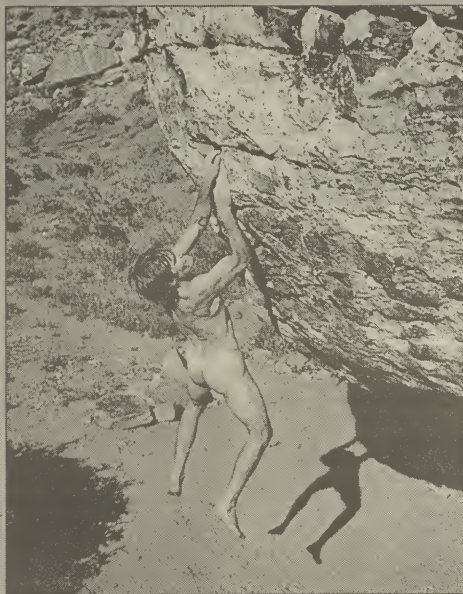
In the wake of Eminem's hateful homophobic hip-hop, the queer community can proudly claim the gay/lesbian duo Mor-play as one of their own. On their impressive debut disc *Thesaurus Metamorphosis* (Mogul Electro), Cazwell and Crasta-Yo fill a void with their house-rocking rhymes and beats. Influences such as Beastie Boys and Run DMC can be heard throughout this nine-track disc, as well as a nod to Eminem's distinctive rap phrasing. Homo hip-hop highlights include the sexually graphic "Do You Wanna Break Up?," "Twist my Words," "Check your Pulse," "Money Changes Everything," and "The Ocean Connection."

On his third album of original classical composition, *Making the Streets Safe for Classical Music*, Again (Classical Angst), 40-year-old composer/arranger/pianist Brian Conn exhibits his range. There are two piano pieces, "Romulus and Remus" and "Salve of the Beast," and a richly orchestrated piece with strings, "Falling on Love (To Those Who Have Grown Apart)." The vocal compositions "L'Amoro Saro Costante" and "Wanting Not but that of Youth" should delight opera queens.

Four more remastered and expanded Judas Priest reissues, from when openly gay frontman Rob Halford was still in the band, are now available. They are *Sin After Sin*, *Stained Glass*, *Hell Bent for Leather* and *Unleashed in the East*, all on Columbia/Legacy, and all originally released on vinyl between 1977 and '79. ▼

PHOTOGRAPHY

Get your rocks off



Dean Friedman

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Theory of relativity

Sons and daughters put out CDs

by Gregg Shapiro

Last year, more children of singers, songwriters, producer and other music-industry types released albums. Among those putting out discs were Rufus Wainwright (son of Kate McGarrigle and Loudon Wainwright III), Nikka Costa (daughter of Don), and Blu Cantrell (daughter of Lana).

Lenny Kravitz (son of Roxie Roker) returned with a self-titled (Virgin) release that was more of his updated retro rock sound, best exemplified in the songs "Battlefield of Love," "Bank Robber Man," and the single "Dig In." The drum programming and mini-Moog on "Believe in Me," and the synthesizer and orchestral arrangement on "You Were in my Heart" come as pleasant surprises.

After his mainstream breakthrough a couple of years ago, Enrique Iglesias (son of Julio Iglesias) seems intent on keeping the ball rolling with *Escape* (Interscope). The album is so slick that you will need to hold onto it with both hands. The first 10 tracks, including the single "Hero," are all sung in English, and four of them are reprinted in Spanish.

I was surprised when I discovered that *Present/Future* (MCA) by Eagle-Eye Cherry (son of Don, brother of Neneh) wasn't being

released by Sony. After all, his 1998 major-label debut disc *Desireless* did yield the hit single "Save Tonight." He's changed label affiliation, but it doesn't sound like he's changed his musical style.

Leona Naess (daughter of Diana Ross' ex-husband Arne Naess) had a hit with her song "Charm Attack" from *Comatised*, her 2000 major-label debut disc. Wasting no time, Naess has followed up that album with *I Tried to Rock you but you Only Roll* (MCA). "Mayor of Your Town" is this album's "Charm Attack," a catchy number that has hit potential. "All the Stars," with its Giorgio Moroder beat, and the thumping "Boys like You" are custom-made for dance-club play.

Oasis revisited

Jenni Muldaur (daughter of folk and blues legends Geoff and Maria Muldaur) released her sweet self-titled major-label debut disc in 1993, before falling out of my radar range. Eight years later, she's back with a new band and a new album. The band is called Angry Elves, and the album, produced by Richard Barone (of Bongos fame) is titled *Make a World* (Stump Rock). In addition to a bizarre cover of "Midnight at the Oasis" (a hit for her mother in the '70s), the album features the timely "Rotten Hobbit," the Jill Sobulesque "When You're Alone," and the experimen-

tal "Soft-Boiled Egg," Barone plays several instruments.

Julianne Raye's major-label debut disc, *Something Peculiar*, was produced and arranged by Jeff (Electric Light Orchestra) Lynne. It sounded a bit like an ELO album with a female vocalist, although most of the songs overcame Lynne's production. Fast-forward to 2001, and Raye is contributing backing vocals to two of the most important albums of the year: *Poses* by Rufus Wainwright, and Ryan Adams' *Gold. Restless Night* (3 Crows). Raye's first album in several years, was produced by Ethan Johns, and features musician Jon Brion, in-demand bass player Jennifer Condos, and an intoxicating duet with Wainwright on the song "More Wine." *Restless Night* reveals a different Raye from the one we were introduced to almost 10 years ago. Singing in her upper register, as she does on "Indigo River," Raye sounds a little like Joni Mitchell. But on songs such as "The Man that Time Forgot," and "Lost Little Orbits," Raye is her own woman.

As a member of Parlor James, Amy Allison (daughter of Mose Allison), released the 1998 album *Old Dreams*, which is a keeper in my personal collection. Her newest album *Sad Girl* (Diesel Only) is downtown NYC insurgent country, and Allison has an affinity for this style of music. ▼

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FILM

Making out on-screen

A baker's dozen of boy/boy, girl/girl screen kisses in cinema history

by Steve Stewart

Come on, Charlie, who took the kickback? Please tell me it's Kramer. If it is, I'll give you a big kiss on the lips. Tongue, no tongue, your choice." — James Garner to Jack Lemmon in *My Fellow Americans* (1996)

Leonardo Di Caprio, Will Smith, Dennis Hopper, Josh Brolin, Anthony Hopkins, Dean Cain, Ashton Kutcher, Sting, William Hurt, Antonio Banderas, Jeremy Irons, Daniel Day-Lewis, Keanu Reeves, Christopher Reeve, Tom Selleck, Matthew Broderick, River Phoenix and Michael Caine have all done it.

So have Kate Hudson, Liv Tyler, Sharon Stone, Kate Capshaw, Elle MacPherson, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Kate Winslet, Uma Thurman, Ally Sheedy, Susan Sarandon, Helen Mirren, Kyra Sedgwick, Drew Barrymore, Neve Campbell, Salma Hayek and Greta Garbo.

What do they all have in common? Each has experienced the thrill and shock value of a same-sex screen kiss.

The first time I ever saw two guys kiss on screen was in John Schlesinger's *Sunday Bloody Sunday* (1971). In this groundbreaking film, Murray Head plays Bob Elkin, a long-haired, free-spirited, bisexual artist, sexually involved with both a man and a woman. Glenda Jackson plays his 30something female lover, Alex. The late

Peter Finch plays his 40something male lover, Dr. Daniel Hirsh. When Peter Finch and Murray Head shared a passionate and extended kissing scene, it was pretty risqué at the time. To my knowledge, this was the first time two men shared a romantic kiss on screen. (In 1968, Rod Steiger had kissed John Phillip Law in *The Sergeant*, but it ended with a beating.)

Thirty years later, in *American Pie 2* (2001), Denise Faye and Lisa Arturo play Danielle and Amber, two sexy women who may or may not be lesbians, but who offer to kiss each other in front of Jason Biggs and Sean William Scott, if the boys will do the same. In the scene, played for laughs, the boys are repulsed, but being horny young teens, they can't resist seeing the women, and do it.

In-between these two films, there have been hundreds of memorable girl/girl, boy/boy screen kisses. Sometimes the kiss is used to make a dramatic statement, sometimes it's just a scene used for titillation or comedic relief. And sometimes a big deal is made about the kiss, but it never actually takes place. Such is the case with *In the Army Now* (1994), in which Pauly Shore and Andy Dick play the minimum-wage misfits and buddies Bones and Jack. On a whim, they enlist in the Army reserves for the extra money. When they are called into active duty, they try to avoid it by pretending to be gay lovers. When



The same-sex kiss is the focus of the entire plot of 1997's *Kiss Me, Guido*.

the commanding officer demands that they prove it by kissing each other, they decide they'd rather risk their lives in combat.

In *Kiss Me, Guido* (1997), the kiss is used as the focus of the entire plot. Nick Scott plays an Italian "Guido," a sweet and innocent pizza-boy who wants to become an actor. His first job turns out to be in a gay play, in which the hunky, homophobic straight boy discovers that kissing a man isn't the kiss of death after all.

In *Dr. T & the Women* (2000), Richard Gere plays a popular Texas gynecologist whose family is coming apart at the seams. On the eve of her wedding, he discovers that his daughter Dee Dee (Kate Hudson) is a lesbian, and that her maid of honor, Marilyn (Liv Tyler), is also her lover. The two young women share numerous kisses and finally run away together at the wedding ceremony.

Friends & Lovers (1999) features Danny Nucci as David, a sweet and lovable gay man who's too shy to find a boyfriend. In his mid-20s, he's still a virgin. On a weekend trip to a ski resort, his straight friends give him the courage and push he needs to meet another gay man, share an innocent kiss, and lose his virginity. Everyone in this sweet and fun film finds romance, including the gay guy for once.

Get Real (1998) stars Ben Silverstone as Steven Carter, a 16-year-old gay student struggling to come out of the closet. Brad Gor-

ton plays John Dixon, a macho high school jock struggling to stay in the closet. The two opposites become lovers and struggle together with their situation. A warm, tender, realistic and well-acted film. Silverstone and Gorton share a couple of passionate and very romantic kisses.

A Girl Thing (2001) finds Stockard Channing playing a psychologist whose clients have multiple sexual problems. In the first of several segments, Elle MacPherson plays her client Lauren. Lauren, who has always been straight, unexpectedly falls for Casey (Kate Capshaw), a serial bisexual. They date, make love and kiss numerous times, but Lauren is too uncomfortable "being different" to make it a lasting relationship, and they eventually part friends. Steven Spielberg reportedly loved his wife's lesbian lip-lock.

Making Love (1982) Michael Ontkean and Harry Hamlin made headlines when they liplocked in Arthur Hiller's film, daring for the time. This was the first mainstream American film to deal openly with the theme of homosexuality, and to feature "normal" gay lead characters and a happy ending. Ontkean plays Zach, a young married doctor who becomes involved with Bart (Hamlin), a male patient. Bart is an attractive, single, successful gay man terrified of commitment, but he becomes the catalyst for Zach to come out of the closet and even-

tually find love with a male partner.

Queen Christina (1934) Set in Sweden in 1632, a young Christina (Greta Garbo) assumes the thrown when her father, the King, is killed in battle. Christina has been raised by the King as a boy, to take his place one day. The Queen has many admirers, but only has eyes for Countess Ebba (Elizabeth Young). In the most memorable scene of the film, they share a kiss on the lips, and plan to meet later for a trip to the country. Is that a euphemism?

The Rainbow (1989) In this film set in Victorian England, Sammi Davis plays Ursula, a young woman desperate to break free of the suffocating moral constraints of the time. While still in school, she experiences her first love affair with her swim coach, Winifred (Amanda Donohoe). Winifred, bound by tradition, later accepts a proposal of marriage from a man, but not before Davis and Donohoe share passionate lesbian kissing and love scenes.

Sebastian (1995) is a very innocent and sweet tale about Sebastian (Hampus Björck), a 16-year-old teen who realizes he's gay. When he kisses his straight friend Ulf (Nicolai Cleve Broch), the straight boy is shocked, and so is Sebastian. But the kiss forces him to accept who he is, and he comes out to his friends and family, and they accept him, too.

Set Me Free (1999) features Karine Vanasse as Hanna, a 13-year-old girl who feels alienated from her dysfunctional parents. At a dance, Hanna meets and falls for Laura (Charlotte Christeler). The two girls share passionate kisses and begin a relationship. A nicely realized coming-of-age tale.

Splendor (1998) is a sweet and perfectly-cast tale, featuring Kathleen Robertson as Veronica, a young woman who falls in love with two handsome young men. Abel (Johnathon Schaech) is a struggling writer, and Zeed (Matt Keeslar) is a struggling musician. The two men move in with Veronica and discover that kissing and sex with each other isn't so bad, either. When Veronica becomes pregnant, however, she turns to Ernest (Eric Mabius), a wealthy director, for security. ▼

Out There

◀ page 26

stand? Your cover package, a moving essay based on interviews with friends and relatives of Flight 93 hero **Mark Bingham**, was not, as touted on the cover, exclusive in any sense, unless you discount extensive coverage in national and local press, dailies and this very weekly.

Reminds us of the time the *Advocate* cover characterized its sweet little interview with gay **Barbra Streisand** son **Jason Gould** as his first-ever sit-down with the gay press, when *Out There* readers know that Gould lost his gay-press cherry right here in these pages.

And what does it portend that the *SF Chronicle's* 2002 arts preview in last Sunday's "pinkie" had no room to mention next June's *SF Internat'l Lesbian & Gay Film Fest*, but plenty of room for an item on August's *Elvis Week* (in Memphis)? That this year's coverage will be as skimpy as last?

Ancient Roman sex

In all the flurry of year-end thumbsuckers in the press, we hope you didn't miss the **juicy grotto news** from Pompeii, Italy about the discovery of a series of erotic frescoes in an ancient thermal bath. It's always diverting to watch academics spar in print about matters sexual, and the latest eruption from Pompeii doesn't sputter!

It seems **Dr. Luciana Jacobelli**, the young Italian archaeologist who discovered the frescoes, and **Prof. Pietro Giovanni Guzzo**, who oversees the archaeological ruins of Pompeii, are at odds over the answer to the question, What in tarnation were the frisky frescoes for? Guzzo suggests

that the erotic tableaux were clearly advertisements for sexual services available on the baths' upper floor.

The frescoes are in what was once the spa's changing room, and *The New York Times's* **Melinda Henneberger** writes, "Because each fresco is numbered, it is Dr. Jacobelli's theory that the depictions may have served as a kind of memory aid for customers who might have been more apt to forget that their clothes were in Locker 6, for example, than that they were in the box right under the group sex scene."

Uh yeah. *Out There* will go with the sex-ad theory.



Overexposed Russell Crowe

Confidential to "Crowe-panther in Silver Spring": Yes, we know actor **Russell "Go, Crowe!"** played a butch gay man in his very first movie, *The Sum of Us*. Yes, we know in that film he gets in a pretty close lock with a guy. Yes, we know he's supposed to be a gay rugby player. But then Crowe moved on to play gladiators, cheer himself onto orgasm with starlets, and star in cheesy movies about bisexual mathematical geniuses "as if" they were straight. As if. So we're over him; please move on. ▼

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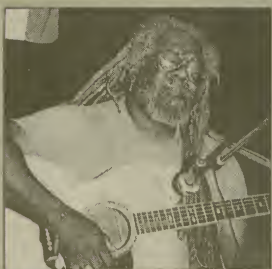
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OUT & AB

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Singer/songwriter Blackberri

Blackberri sings

Facts got a little mixed up last week in a piece I wrote that mentioned Bay Area singer/songwriter Blackberri. Somehow I had this legendary gay African American artist, poet and activist owning a doughnut shop and a leather bar. Well, not quite. In fact, as a contributor to Winston Leyland's *Out in the Castro* anthology, Blackberri had interviewed the real one-time doughnut shop and leather bar owner, Dennis Ziebell, who Blackberri notes "still lives in the Castro" and "still has Andy's [the Castro doughnut shop in question], only it's now called Orphan Andy's."

As for my excuse, I plead pressing deadlines, holiday madness, and confusing typography. And what shall be my penance? Why, to do good, of course, by plugging Blackberri's upcoming gig at 2202 Oxygen Bar on Valencia Street in the Mission.

First, a bit more about where Blackberri is coming from: Born Charles Timothy Ashmore in 1945, Blackberri is an out poet, photographer, guitarist, singer/songwriter and social-justice activist whose writings have appeared in such magazines as *BLK* and *Fag Rag*, as well as in such anthologies as *Brother to Brother* and *The Road Before Us*. You may have seen him in Rob Epstein and Peter Adair's documentary on gay life, *Word Is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives*, or filmmaker Marlon Riggs' acclaimed account of Black gay life, *Tongues Untied*. You may even have heard Blackberri's music in the film *Looking For Langston*, about Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes.

Blackberri's upcoming gig at 2202 Oxygen Bar pairs him with poet/DJ/Infinite Soul Jamez L. Smith as part of "SAFE," a night of soulful sounds, spoken word, and refreshing atmosphere. It's the place to be for those who want to relax in a cozy Mission District chill lounge, mingle easily with friends, listen to cool tunes and verse, and perk up their systems with fine herbal elixirs. The big plus: for a pretty penny (\$10 for 10 minutes, etc.), you get to hook yourself up by hoses to a tank that pumps out the freshest oxygen this side of the Sierra Nevada, sweetly infused with aromatherapy magic. It'll have you laid-back and dreamy in no time. ▼

"SAFE," with DJ Jamez and singer/songwriter Blackberri takes place on Tuesday, January 15, 9 p.m., at 2202 Oxygen Bar, 795 Valencia St. (at 19th St.). The cover is \$2-\$5 sliding. Info: www.2202bar.com

Fri

Dance Mission Theater

Preview: Dance Brigade launches its 26th season with a new work by Artistic Director Krissy Keefer, "CaveWomen 2002," the concluding segment of a trilogy that started in 1996 with "Ballet of the Banshees," and continued with "The Queen of Sheba" in 1999. Whereas the first two works celebrated raw female power, "CaveWomen 2002" is tempered by insight, wisdom, and compassion. The title comes from the great yogini women of India and Tibet who performed rituals during the 10th century. \$15 previews (Jan. 11-13, 8pm). Opens for a three week run on Jan. 18. (\$17 adv.; \$20 door). 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.). Tix/info: 273-4633; Modern Times Bookstore (SF); Mama Bear Books (Berkeley).

Marlena's

"It Shoulda Been Me!" — an event by Runner-ups, presented by Mr. Hayes Valley Leather First Runner-up Dan Alexander. A benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. Featuring outrageous Runner-up entertainment by Snatch, Ruby La Dante and others, plus a snazzy raffle. With the Runner-ups in charge, the winner takes second place! Lottery-style raffle tickets are \$10 each; the Runner-up receives \$500; the holder of the winning ticket receives what every Runner-up re-

ceives — nothing! Proceeds will be divided evenly between beneficiaries. No cover. 8-11pm. Hayes & Octavia.

Cowell Theater

Theatre Flamenco presents "Fusión Flamenca," with three premieres choreographed by artistic director Miguel Santos, plus a collaboration between Miguel and El Guito and a piece choreographed with Adela Clara. Miguel's vision is a regvanized approach to traditional flamenco, in particular the exquisite, lyrical and classical escuela bolera form taught by José Antonio, former artistic director of the Ballet Nacional de España. Featuring guest musicians Jess Wolff (cello), Dwight Okamura (piano), Anna Maria Mendieta (harp), and Jesus "Chus" Alonso (flute, percussion). \$27 (\$50 for Gala night, Sat., Jan. 12). Also on Jan. 13, 8pm (2pm Sun.). Fort Mason Center. Tix/info: 345-7575.

LaVal's Subterranean, Berkeley

"Every Inch A King," a new comedy from Central Works Theater Ensemble. What do you do with an old king? Reggie Leroy's old, and he's fading fast. His three daughters have to make a decision. Sell



JoJo Razor's bottle art as seen at Hollis Street Project. See Monday.



"Aloft," Polaroid Emulsion Lift, by Dianne Estrin, at Hollis Street Project. See Monday.

the family home? Or do as the old man says? What do we really owe our children? What if the old man's been a real SOB all his life? \$8-\$18 sliding. 8pm (5pm Sun.). Thru Feb. 2. 1834 Euclid Ave. (near Hearst), Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 558-1381.

Sat

Slim's

"Very Special Frank Black Solo Show with Graham Parker," a performance in support of Black's latest release, *Dog in the Sand*. Black, founding member of the Pixies, has been building a devoted cult following with his unique stylistic rock since 1987. He has inspired everyone from Radiohead to grunge master Dave Grohl. \$20. 8pm. All ages. 333 11th St. Tix/info: 255-0333.

Kimo's

Live bands: Leper Sex Killer, Young Trade, and On the Loose. \$5. 9pm. 21 + w/D. 1351 Polk St. (at Pine).

Cafe Du Nord

"Writers With Drinks!" Make your head go boom with our wordy combustion for your friendly cultural feelings! An early evening of spoken word in all its flavors, from comedy to poetry to

eroti- ca to lit to angry rants. Start your night off right! Featuring: White Noise Theatre, Jan Richman, Shauna Rogan, Cara Bruce, Annalee Newitz, and Jamez Smith. Charles Anders M.C.s. \$3-5 sliding (cheap!). 6-8pm (early!). 2170 Market St. (at Sanchez). All proceeds benefit *Anything That Moves*, the magazine for the spoken-word bisexual.

Cafe International

The SF Folk Music Club presents "HOOTENANNY," a hootin' bunch of folk musicians gathering to create a down-home warm 'n' fuzzy feeling in the Lower Haight. All folkies welcome (and one of the great developments in the folk-music scene in recent years has been the emergence not only of great lesbian and gay folk musicians, but also of legions of LGBTQ folk-music lovers). It happens every second Sat. o' the month. 6-10:30pm. 508 Haight St. (at Fillmore). Info: 558-7131; email equal-ice@yahoo.com

Fort Mason Center

"Friends & Foundation of the SF Public Library Book Sale." Bargain books (\$1 or less) benefit programs for children and adults at all branch libraries. Select from thousands of books in all categories. Free. 10am-5pm.



Jasper Thresh play the next DivaBands show at Hotel Utah. See Tuesday.

Daddy's Bar

Mark Paladini presents "The Weakest Drink!" In this take-off on the popular TV show "The Weakest Link," several local bartenders will undergo a grueling test of their drink-mixing knowledge and skill. How well do they know their poisons? Bartending trivia abounds, plus extra-added entertainments. No cover; \$7 beverage benefit at door (optional); participate in the raffle to add to the grand total that will be donated to the winning bartender's favorite charity. 4-8pm. 440 Castro St. (btwn Market & 18th St.).

La Peña Cultural Center, Berkeley

On A Butch Tip Productions presents "On The East Side," celebrating the queer African American spoken-word/performance-art group's arrival to the East Bay. Butch Tip performers present a night of spoken word, music, and rap, featuring Angela Hannah, B.C. Oliver, Johnnie Pratt, Marcus Van, and RJ. With special guest Deep Dickollective. \$10-\$12 sliding at door. 5-6:30pm (doors open 4:45pm). 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Amnesia

"Club K.Y.," a nonprofit queer indie-punk rock music club "for dykes, transies, queers, muff-divers, ass-munchers, butt-pirates, fudge-packers, fags, fag fuckers, fucked-up fags, fecalphiliacs, freaks of all genders and their friends. Everyone welcome!" DJs Spike, Mike & Jacob spin the latest US/UK indie-punk-rock and noise-pop on vinyl, CD and mp3 (playlist includes the 78rpm, the eddie hascells, erase errata, llama farmers, ultrasound, murder city devils, le tigre, bikini kill, the need, urusei yatsura, the international noise conspiracy, black rebel motorcycle gang and much more). "Club K.Y. supports universal health care, protection of our civil liberties, a living wage, immigrant rights, social justice, freedom and fostering unity. We oppose military intervention, the war, racism, homophobia, classism, sexism, gentrification and police brutality." No cover. 10pm-2am. 21 + w/D. Second Sunday of every month. 853 Valencia St. Info: www.geocities.com/clubky

Also sun. 10am-3:30pm. Building A. Info: 437-4858; www.friendsandfoundation.org

Sun

Mon 14

Hollis Street Project, Emeryville

Opening: "Ton of Joy," a group show of 12 painters and sculptors celebrating life and beauty. Featuring works by artists who have defeated depression with bold brushstrokes and flowing forms. Curated by Jan Camp. Also: "Chemistry," a dynamic fusion of light and matter, featuring works by Bay Area photographers. Free. Thru March 1. 8am-6pm Mon.-Fri. 5900 Hollis St., Emeryville.

Tue 15

Hotel Utah

Divabands, a collective organized by and for female singers and songwriters in the greater SF Bay Area, presents Jasper Thresh, plus "Songwriter's Night" with Bern, True Magrit, and Amy Meyer. \$5. 8:30pm. 500 Fourth St. (at Bryant). Info: 546-6300.

Wed 16

Museum of Craft & Folk Art

Opening reception: "Emblems of Passage: Art of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas." Curated by Gregory Ghent. Featuring treasures from the private collections of Friends of Ethnic Art members, many of which have never been exhibited publicly. These "emblems" represent rites of passage around the world, marked with music, song, dance and drama. Free. 5-7pm. Fort Mason Center, Building A. Info: www.mocfa.org; 775-0991, ext. 102.

Thu 17

Venue 9

Opening night: Footloose at Venue 9 presents the "Women on the Way (WOW) Festival," a multimedia mix of rotating performances by emerging artists, produced by Mary Alice Fry. Tonight: "Groucho: A Day in the D'elia Soup," by writer/performer Tina D'Elia, directed by Ellen



"Anticipation," acrylic on paper, by Whitney Vosburgh, at Hollis Street Project. See Monday.



"CaveWomen 2002" previews at Dance Mission Theater. See Friday

Sebastian Chang (One morning Tina, a Latina Lesbian, wakes alarmed to find she's been transformed into Groucho Marx); and "How to be a Secret Agent Girl as Seen on American Television and in Movies" by Cathleen Daly (five women expose the belly of the beauty beast through theater, song and movement). The festival continues through Sunday, February, with a different line-up of shows each night. \$15. Door opens 7:30pm; show at 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Info/res: 289-2000.

The Hemlock Tavern

"Unnatural Acts," a vaudeville cabaret emceed by Hostess Doll-ya Hoffman-Kaufman-Stein-Steinberg. Featuring Bubblesmith Sterling Johnson, Chantuse Eryka Raines with Mr. Goodbar on piano, accordionist Sansa, Spoken Word Artist Mrs. Wendee Key, and The Tina & Bobby Dance Company. Plus juggler/performance artist Sara Felder and the musical stylings of Tom Goss with Extreme Elvis. \$10. 9pm-midnight. 1131 Polk St.

The Pendulum

"Alley Catz," a club for women, presents "Post-Holi-



"Hotel Sultan, Damascus, Syria," 2001, by Vicki Topaz, at Hollis Street Project. See Monday.

day Depression Party." Engage your fantasies with erotic dancer RandenTrixi-eTrashinaCann and the sexy sounds of DJs Leslie A. and Olga T. No cover. 8pm-2am. 4146 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood). Info: 863-4441.

Cell Space

"Queer Skateboard Jam," with videos, music, cruising & more. All ages. \$5-7. 6-10?pm. Bryant & Mariposa.



Rica Anderson is Leah Leroy in *Every Inch A King* at LaVal's Subterranean in Berkeley. See Friday.

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Plunging into 2002

Charity fundraisers and contests galore

by Mister Marcus

We're out of the gate and off to a good start. The race is on to compete for a whole new year's worth of leather titles! Place your bets on the leather community to raise the most funds for charity of any GLBTQ group anywhere!

In Los Angeles last weekend, the legendary Gauntlet II celebrated its 17th anniversary and chose the first contender for the Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2002 title. A packed house witnessed the studly Don Anspaugh become Mr. Gauntlet II Leather 2002, with Dan Hernandez the runner-up. Mr. Anspaugh will advance to the finals in Los Angeles on March 23rd.

In San Francisco, a wall-to-wall crowd packed the Eagle last Sunday afternoon, January 6, for the 2002 Bare Chest Calendar dinner-date auction. Officer Lenny Broberg (IML '92) once again officiated the event.

An enthusiastic (and generous) crowd cheered lustily for the contenders, and put their money where their mouths were as five of the calendar men endured the fun and nonsense — all for a good cause. When it was all over, some \$10,138 was raised for beneficiaries, AEF and Positive Resources. Calendar cover man Doug Roenicke, was the star of the afternoon when almost \$4,000 was bid on a dinner date with him.

Last September during Leather Pride Week, those auctioned off raised \$9,500. The total raised from the dinner-date auctions alone is \$19,638, and that's not counting the calendar sales!

As of Sunday, the calendar men have completed their official duties as calendar men. It was a great job by all involved, including many generous merchants, free spenders, volunteers, the Eagle Bar and staff. It was a prideful afternoon.

Late flash: It was decided last week that all 12 bare chest calendar



2002 Bare Chest Calendar coverman Doug Roenicke got some help adjusting his jock at the dinner-date auction at the Eagle last Sunday.

dar contests will take place exclusively at the Powerhouse, so start gearing up, pumping iron, and looking good — the calendar contests are in progress. Mr. January 2003 will be chosen tonight at 9:30 at the Powerhouse. Be there!

Sash rash
fever rages

Would you believe it? Already 30 leather men are waiting in the wings, ready to take a shot at winning the IML 2002 title.

During the weekend of Janu-

ary 18-21, another name will be added to the roster, following the Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather competition on Sunday, January 20.

The Powerhouse, Edge, Daddy's and the Eagle will be holding their contests in San Francisco for a shot at the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2002 title. That contest will take place on Friday, March 8 at Club Townsend. Time to gear up, get in shape and take the plunge!

While all this is going on, there are contests for men, women and boys to compete at American Brotherhood Weekend in Wash-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, January 10

Mr. January 2003 on the bare chest calendar will be chosen at 2130 at the Powerhouse tonight. The judges are Jeff Johnston, Peter Millar and Keith Truitt. This kicks off the 18th edition of the world-famous calendar.

Friday, January 11

"It Should'a Been Me" — the usual wailing by the loser(s) after any contest. Runner-ups of the Mr. Hayes Valley Leather contest at Marlena's stage a benefit for AEF and BCEF with a lottery and other shenanigans where the losers rule, not the winners. Sounds like fun from 2000-2300. Check it out!

Saturday, January 12

"Mr. Regiment Leather" contest at the Faultline in Los Angeles, at 2100, sponsored by the Regiment of the Black & Tans. Winner will compete for the Mr. L.A. Leather 2002 title on March 23rd.

Monthly "Cock Party" at Castlebar with cigar, dungeon and wrestling activity. Doors open 2100-2300. Suck till you sag!

Sunday, January 13

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, from 1600-1900 for only \$7. Also, "The Weakest Drink" benefit beer/soda bust @ Daddy's where local bartenders will be tested on

their drink knowledge and bar trivia. Only \$7.

Wednesday, January 16

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison, with doors open 2100 to 2300. Clothes check mandatory. Call 777-HEAD.

Leathermen's Discussion Group presents "Structured Ball Play & Stretching," hosted by noted nudist/exhibitionist Mr. NineDick. Doors at 1900, program at 1930. Takes place at Club Eros. It's Free!

Weekend, January 18-21

Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend in Washington, D.C. Expect a hefty San Francisco showing. The Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather contest is the highlight, among many by the Centaur MC. Results for you here next week and on www.L LeatherPage.com.

Polar Bear Weekend up at the Russian River with virtually every bar, resort and business involved. Loosely organized with parties, play parties, food and a Polar Bear Plunge.

Friday, January 18

Exiles of SF present "Ask the Medical Experts" with qualified medical persons (including a chiropractor, OB/Gyn, and infectious disease experts) at the Women's Bldg. \$3/members, \$6 guests. Doors open 1830, program at 1900. Sticky parking situation in this neighborhood.

Let's all be friends!

by Sweet Lips

Welcome to 2002, everyone! Polk Street is alive, kicking, and as gay as can be — and so am I! Let's hope this year goes better than last.

Those of you who have followed my column all these years know I report religiously on the whereabouts of my close friends, and I'll continue to do so this year — so that nobody gets lost in the wilderness! First off, let's wish Happy Birthday to Dick Deemer on the 23rd of this month, and of course he'll be off in the wilderness of Puerto Vallarta with his Ramon. You'd be surprised at all the San Franciscans you find camping out there!

And speaking of wilderness, Steve Suss of the Embers Bar in Portland (I'm sure you've visited him there) is taking an 18-day trip on the Amazon River! I hope not by canoe! Closer to home, Emperor Tom and Empress Chablis are putting together a wonderful program of events for "A Winter's Dream Coronation," coming up February



Who says Sweet Lips was never pretty? With Sam in September, 1976.

21-24. I'll give you fuller details in early February, but I just thought you might like to mark your calendars ahead of time.

Many great events are planned for Club Rendez-Vous, so check in regularly to see what's hap-

pening. Remember that Valentine's Day is coming up on Thurs-

day, February 14, so grab your sweetheart and come on out, or come on out and grab a sweetheart for the night!

As for who's tending what, where — Woody is still at the Cinch Saloon, and he's the longest-working employee there. He must be doing something right! Of course you can visit me at Club Rendez-Vous on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., so do drop in for a fun time! ▼

Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

ington in April. Who will become American Leather Man, American Leather Woman and American Leather Boy? The future looks bright as new faces appear on the leather-world landscape.

With all these events coming your way, the months ahead will be filled with fundraising, leather festivals, weekend seminars and workshops and a plethora of other activities geared to celebrate the leather lifestyle I hope you'll all be a part of it.

For leather news from columnists around the world, log on to www.L LeatherPage.com for the latest news in other areas of the leather nation. See you next week. ▼



Study "Daddy" Don Anspauch was chosen Mr. Gauntlet II at that legendary bar in LA last Saturday. The runner-up was Dan Hernandez.



Marita Lorenz is at the center of Wilfried Huisman's *Dear Fidel* — Marita's Story.

Berlin & Beyond

◀ page 33

Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis and several others as the triggermen. The "dear Fidel" angle is a small pane in the prism of a tumultuous life lived brutally close to major historical events, taking the charismatic Marita from the

Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at age 5, through a rape by an American soldier at 7, into Fidel's inner sanctum before she was 20, through an almost lethal abortion of his baby, and into the heady world of America's and Israel's pathological national security operations. Marita's personal charisma, credibility, and candor ("I don't give a shit what Gerry

Hemming says. He's fucking CIA all the way through!" she says of a typically evasive former colleague) make this must-viewing, and not only for conspiracy buffs. Director and star will be in attendance. (1/15, 7 p.m.) ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Terrific Jim Danced @ Nob Hill
12/2 with Gusto & asked my name & was pleased I stayed for 2nd show. (Doubled my pleasure). Can we talk?
☎ 71362

DimHts Safeway Mon 12/3 Chkout
Check-out-you: dark br and running outfit. Me: SF cap, parka, or br, shirttail out. We cruised in line. At door looked again, I smiled, parking lot again. Call. ☎ 71363

White Chevron Polo Shirt
Oakland Airport: black jeans, red beard, white polo shirt with large Chevron logo on back. Let me know how I can reach you and introduce myself. ☎ 71378

December 6th 7:05pm Cafe Flore
We were on the same street car. Then waiter in front of Cafe Flore for our friends that were late. Me: WM you are. ☎ 71379

Ken @ Steamworks 12/14 1am
You came to my room. You: tall, muscled, hairy, clean shaven. Me: shorter, smooth, goatee. Enjoyed playing. Want more! Alan. ☎ 71380

College Av Oakland 12/11, 2pm
Me: blue windbreaker, glasses, baseball cap. Your: short hair, great smile, Hispanic I think, sitting at sidewalk table as I tied my dogs leash to a tree. Sigh. Call me! ☎ 71381

Bondage Partner(s) Wanted By
GWM, 5'11", 160, red/grey, blue, mustache, 52, HIV-. Into tight ropes, gags, creative scenes. UB goodlooking 20-49, bottom (switch?). Struggle, J/O, face/ass fuck, safe sex, N/S, N/D. ☎ 71382

Muchacho Muy Guapo-Alfredo
You left without getting my phone number on Sunday, 12/23. Will I see you again- place, same day? Papi Pedro wants you! ☎ 71392

Muni Chance Encounter
Three weeks ago you GWM (shopping perhaps) got on train at Powell. I got off at Civic Center. Our eyes met and I waved. Where are you? Me: GBM coming from work. I want you! ☎ 71402

Steve Steve Steve
Sunday 12/23 Blow Buddies. We played three times! Had a special connection. I told you "you're cute". You said I "could be the poster boy for cock sucking". Dave ☎ 71403

"Arnold Where Are You?"
Arnold from Pacifica? Menlo Park. We met at bus stop 18th and Castro at 2pm on 12/27. I got the wrong email address. Would love to connect. David ☎ 71404

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

LTR With Younger Latino Guy
40ish stocky, well endowed versatile top, professional, not in shape, for younger Latino guy, no attitude, love, romantic travel much more. ☎ 71364

I Am Turkish GWM 29, 5'4" 135
Nice, beautiful, slim, ideal. Good loyal, pleasant, serious. I'm looking for Turk, GWM from 24 to 32 for love, understanding, friends. Please serious replies only, discretion. ☎ 71365

Dad ISO Bottom Boys
Hot muscular dad, thick hairy chest late 40, 5'8", 185, well built ISO cute boyish bottom, 35, HIV- possible relationship. ☎ 71367

Searching For Mr. Right
In all the wrong places looking for White male honest sincere a good person good friend long term in shape HIV- Me WM 41 good looking honest HIV- East Bay. ☎ 71368

Anything Goes
Mild or wild, let's do it! Hung thick (nice mouthful), hairy, 6', 200#, gray trim beard, HIV-. Into music, arts theater, photography. You 40+, neg, GWAH. Hot daddy answers all replies. ☎ 71393

Handsome Chinese Guy
Tall educated ISO Inkd Asian over 50 for friendship or ltr. ☎ 71394

Masculine Hole For My Pleasure
Spiritual Journey: leather, affection, and sleaze. Va, w/s, humiliation, face-slapping, belt-whipping. Master's 38, 5'10", 172, br/bl, moustache, HIV-, nice shape. Ub2, look around my age. Single only. ☎ 71395

Nice Guy Looking 4 Same
I am GAM, 35, 5'6", thoughtful, easy-going, smart and caring. Would like to meet similar GAM/GWM in East Bay for dating. Please be NS/ND, HIV-. ☎ 71405

Mature Men
I'm attractive to affectionate senior men who enjoy passionate kissing and oral pleasure. Kink ok. I'm a WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. Non-gym, facial hair, rugged-looks a+. No gay scene, drugs, attitude. ☎ 71406

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Sonoma County Oral Service
Hot GWM, 35, looking for oral service. I'm very fit & need relief. We are both HIV-. Give me a call. ☎ 71369

Student Wanted
Uncut British professor and cut partner (both 50, slim) seek uncut submissive boy (18-30) for fun and games and good food. ☎ 71370

Material Muscular Athlete
Italian/Spaniard, attractive, green eyes, 34, straight material type, healthy and DDF. Seeks other material muscular athletes only, of any race. No feds or fats. Enjoys sports and pumping iron. ☎ 71371

In Search Of: Uncut Men In Noe
Valley around Douglas St. and 21st. Free blowjobs at my place. Str- Bi-Gay. Regular basis? Age unimportant. ☎ 71372

Looking To Service
Guys 45-55 who are in good shape, easy going, verbal, hairy A+. Med-gldng, healthy HIV+, 45, 5'8", 160, br/bl goatee, love to be on my knees. ☎ 71373

Big, Fat, Chubby Men
GBM, 5'11", 250lbs, 48yo. seeks big, fat, & chubby men for passionate sexual encounters, & mutual attentive love making. ☎ 71374

Horny WM W/Big Cut Cocks
Cocksucker's hot mouth/tongue. Married/Bi/Single ok. Trim in shape only. GWM suks u when she won't. ☎ 71383

Into Man Smells, 28, Masc, Tall, Gdtk, active, armpits underwear, tan lines, white sweaty socks, oral, no cologne. Masc, cool White boys, 25-40. HIV- East Bay/SF jock aroma, adidas. Got what it takes? S 71384

Need Top Men
To put his big T™ or more dick down my deep throat. I am GWM, 6ft, 45yr. old Ages 30-55. ☎ 71385

I Want Still Hornyhard Seniors
40ish Bi WM seeks older men 55+ up seniors retiree's- Hot? Horny? Hard? Let me give you oral no husslers, clean only- All races, prefer cut, good-sized. ☎ 71386

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

Hobo In Heat!!
Homeless guy, English/Welsh French, hairy chest, dark red goatee, brunette otherwise, light skin, freckles, light smooth round butt, big thighs, chunky, hazel eyes, 12ze, looking for safe, fun, kicks. ☎ 71387

Seeking Latino Or Asian Men
Want to service Latino or Asian men to age 18-35 only, straight, gay or bi discrete. My place. ☎ 71389

Thick, Uncut, Middle Eastern, Latin
Or European top wanted to suck off, 69, watch porno, drink beer and give or get it dogie style with GWM, 40, 6', 195#, tattoos, 8" cut, HIV-, female condoms? ☎ 71390

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Pretty Eyes
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Top Seeks Bottom Fuck Buddy
Masculine, GWM, 35, 6'2", 260lbs, black/blue, negative, work out, beefy build, 7"x5" cock, seeks aggressive bottom for playfully rough & intense sexual intimacy on an on going basis. ☎ 71397

New Year Massage
Start 2002 off with an erotically stimulating full body massage free for lean masculine guys 19-45 by lean masculine WM 43. ☎ 71398

ISO S.Bay/S.V. Area Bear/Daddy
Type, Me: 6'1", 220lbs, grey/bn. Looking for daytime playmate. M-F am's in Sunnyvale/ S. Bay Area. I'm 40yrs, 8", very clean, ub-2 or forget it! ☎ 71399

Tops R Us!
Big-dick total top likes to "get-off" with other top men. Either, kicking back strokin, or working over an eager bottom. Age, race, endowment not important. Masculine, in-shape men only. ☎ 71400

24 Hour Fitness Buddy Wanted
Middle age male needs gym attendance friend. You be male or female. Let's talk and do exercise. ☎ 71407

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Beginner Cocksucker
Seeking one large uncircumcised a/w smooth to lite hairy clean safe cock to practice my cocksucking fantasies on. Your cock fucking my mouth is so hot! ☎ 71408

Skinny Horny Guys
Enjoy servicing skinny or slim guys only who kick back and then show me their hole for rimming and ass eating. ☎ 71409

Top 9"cut Cock Wants Hot Ass
To fuck- Me 57yrs old Cauc. 6'0", 175lbs drk brn hair brn eyes, glasses, hairy chest-stomach. You Cauc. or Hispanic under 40 smooth bodied and loves to get fucked. ☎ 71410

Senior Seeking Service
Twist dad's nipples suck his cock. It's 7"uncut. What's your like? Thick & cut, let me at it! ☎ 71411

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Erotic Rope Bondage
Expert bondage top, GWM, 43, 5'8", 160, good looking, athletic, HIV-, seeks masculine, in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging erotic bondage gags, toys, light SM. Trustworthy, discreet. Novice Ok. SF/East Bay. S 71401

Rimmers
GWM seeks guys who like to rim. Me: 55 5'8" brown hair mustache HIV+. You: GWM 30-50. Clean only. Your place in SF only. Hairy ass A+. ☎ 71412

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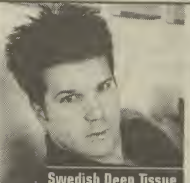
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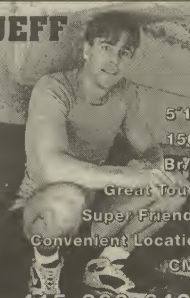
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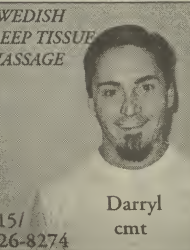
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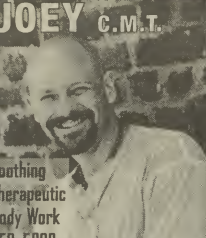
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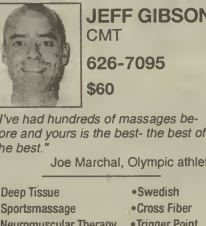
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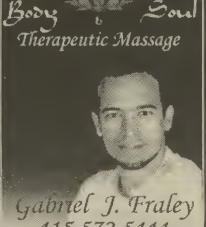
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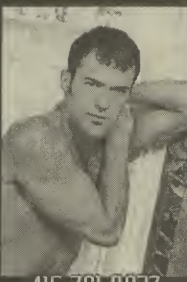
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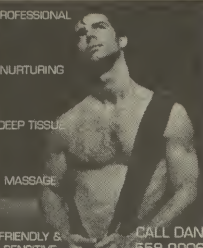
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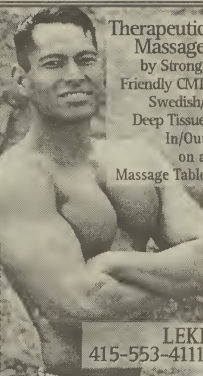
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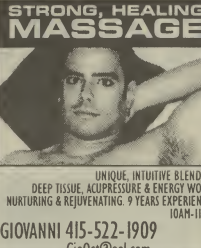
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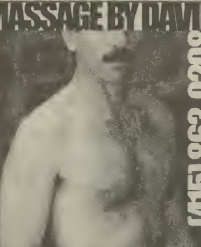
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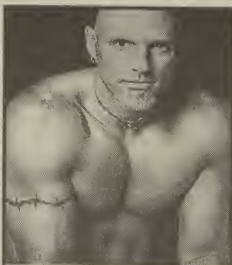
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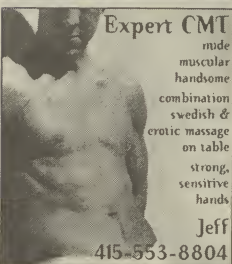
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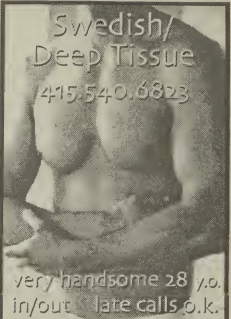
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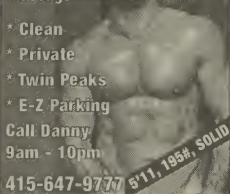
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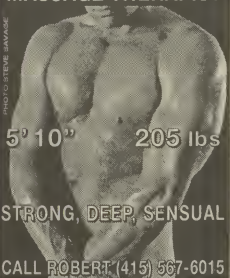
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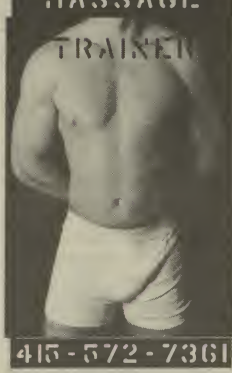
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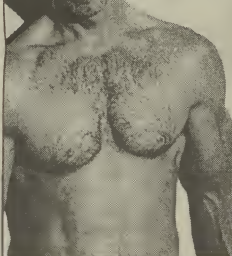
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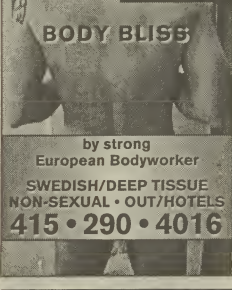

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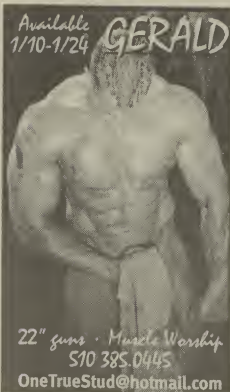
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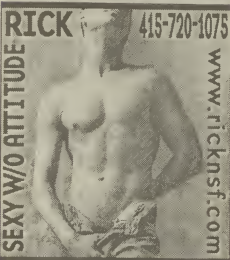
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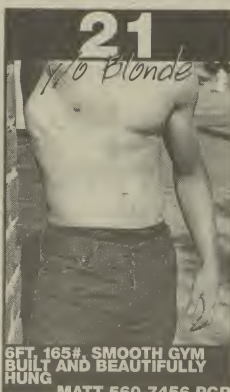
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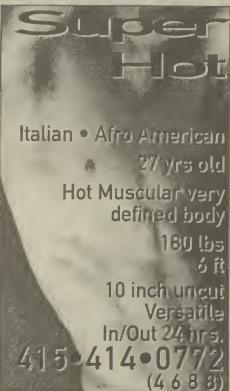
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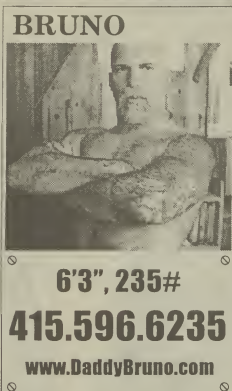
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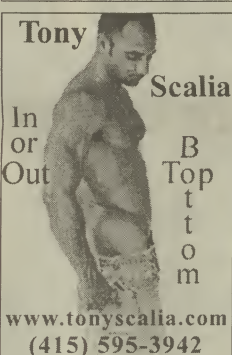
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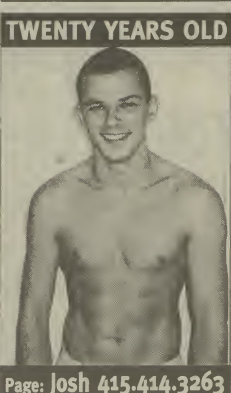
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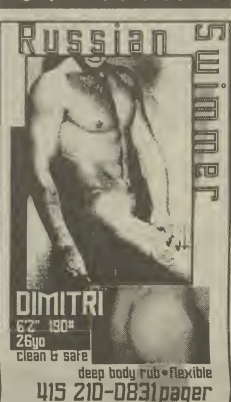
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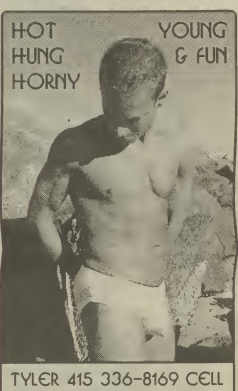
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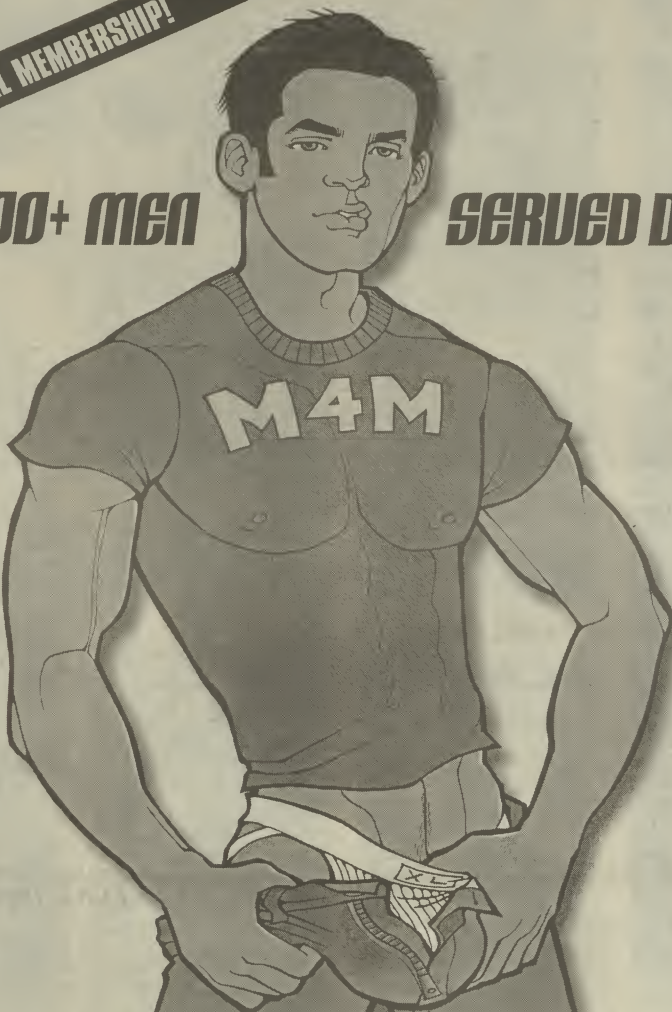
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